

DAILY TRUST

Trust Is A Burden

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2003 ELECTION

Obasanjo carries campaign to US, Britain

As new political associations spring up in the country and the road to 2003 presidential election hots up, President Olusegun Obasanjo has taken his campaign to foreign countries, including the United States and Britain.

A presidential source said that President Obasanjo has sent emissaries to the two countries and other international organisations for assistance in his quest for re-election.

The foreign campaign is packaged by an organisation identified as Obasanjo Solidarity Forum (OSF). It comprises selected top government officials and business tycoons both within and outside the country.

By Suleiman Mohammed

While abroad, the OSF is to seek international support for President Obasanjo both financially and in areas of election and campaign strategies.

Presidency sources confirmed the development and explained further that the foreign package was, among other things, aimed at selling the image of President Obasanjo and his government's policies which are said to be strictly in tune with the specifications of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB).

Only last week, the South-South Zone of the OSF paid a courtesy call on President Obasanjo at the State House and pledged to work hard for his re-

contd. on pg 2



Destroyed buildings during communal clashes in Kwalla, Plateau State... last week

Slave ship found off Equatorial Guinea

A ship at the centre of an international hunt and suspected to be carrying scores of West African child slaves has been spotted off Equatorial Guinea, a Benin government minister said yesterday.

Police along the coast have been hunting for the ship since officials in Benin said on Friday that they believed it was carrying 180 children, sold by poor families into lives of slavery on plantations or as servants.

"According to the information we received today, the boat would be off Equatorial Guinea, off Malabo," Social Protection Minister, Ramatou Baba Moussa said in Cotonou yesterday.

Malabo, Equatorial Guinea's capital on the island of Bioko is little more than 100 km from Cameroon's port of Douala, which the Nigerian-registered MV Etreneo left on Thursday after being turned away.

Port authorities in Malabo said they were not aware of the presence of the boat. Malabo is some 800 km from Cotonou, where the boat had been expected to dock on Sunday after a voyage of more than two weeks.

International arrest war contd. on pg 2



Children on horse ride at Abuja Amusement Park during the Easter picnic yesterday. Work resumes nationwide today after the Easter break. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje.

Violence escalates in mideast

***Israel attacks Syria,**

***Palestine replies**

The protracted crisis in the Middle East has escalated with the potential of a full-blown war between Israel and the Arab countries.

Early yesterday, Israel attacked deep in Lebanon destroying a Syrian radar station, killing three Syrian soldiers and wounding six others.

Within 10 hours, Palestine replied with mortar bombs slammed into the Israel town of Sderot, about five kilometres from the border with the Gaza strip. Police said there were no casualties.

Syria which suffered the attack has quickly put its 35,000 troops stationed in Lebanon on high alert in case

the situation worsens.

Israel's attack on Syrian formation has sparked international concern that it would risk a regional war.

The attack in the early hours of yesterday, the first direct strike against Syrian positions in Lebanon since 1996, raised the military stakes in the Middle East and brought a confrontation with Syria closer.

Syria said the air strike contd. on pg 2

Don't arrest us, Okadigbo, others tell IGP, minister

Former Senate President, Dr. Chuba Okadigbo, Senators Rowland Ovie, Gbenga Aluko and Abubakar Girei who were last week indicted by the Senate for alleged impropriety in the award of contracts have asked the Inspector-General of Police and the Attorney-General of the Federation not to arrest them or initiate criminal investigation against them.

They averred that it would amount to a "travesty of justice" and breach of court process if the offices of the IG and Minister of Justice take any action against them on the basis of the report of the Senator Idris Kuta panel and the subsequent harmonisation committee report with largely affirmed the conclusion of the Senator Kuta panel.

The Senators who made the pleas through their solicitors, Okeke and Okeke, pointed out that they had already instituted a legal action against the Senator Kuta report at the Federal High Court. They filed their injunction on September 25, 2000 against the Kuta report.

In their injunction they asked that the report of the committee be quashed and that the Inspector-General of Police and the Attorney-General of the Federation should be stopped from initiating any criminal prosecution against them on the basis of the report.

"On the 28th of September, 2000, the said court granted an

contd. on pg 2

INEC begins delineation of constituencies

By Ibrahim Modibbo, Political Editor

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) may have commenced fresh delimitation of federal constituencies which is expected to increase the number of constituencies nationwide, ahead of the 2003 elections.

The number of federal, state and local government legislators may also increase as a result of the exercise.

Sources at INEC told *Daily Trust* that a circular was sent to the 36 state governments and Abuja to send in their input for the delimitation of state and federal constituencies in their states.

contd. on pg 2

NEWS

INEC cancels LG election in Ondo

By Reuben Yunana

Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has advised the Ondo State Independent Electoral Commission not to go ahead with the local government elections expected to take place in some parts of the state on Tuesday April 17, 2001.

A statement signed by Oluwole Osaze Uzzi, Special Assistant to INEC Chairman, Dr. Abel Goubadia, said the election could only take place after the constitutional require-

ment of obtaining an authentic voters' register from INEC.

"The attention of INEC has been drawn to a statement credited to the Ondo State Independent Electoral Commission to the effect that the local government elections in some parts of the state will hold on Tuesday the 17th of April 2001," the statement distributed to newsmen in Abuja yesterday read.

According to the state-

ment: "While the state independent electoral commissions are charged with the responsibility of conducting local government elections, by virtue of the 1999 constitution the registration of voters and the production of a voter's register remain the exclusive preserve of INEC under the said constitution."

The statement stressed that the conduct of any election in the country is therefore predicated on the production of the register of voters by INEC.

According to the statement, Ondo State INEC has not made any moves to procure the authentic voters' register of the affected areas from INEC.

"It follows therefore, that any election conducted without such a register falls short of the legal requirements," the statement concluded.



Abel Goubadia

INEC *contd. from pg. 1*

When this exercise is completed, indications are that in any future election, the number of polling stations would be increased substantially, so that no voter would travel more than five kilometres to vote.

This would be a sharp departure from the past elections where hundreds of voters were said to be disenfranchised because of the far distance of polling centres from others. Other had to trek several kilometres to exercise their voting rights.

The delimitation exercise would also affect the present senatorial districts and federal constituencies as when concluded the project is expected to produce more Senators and members of the Federal House of Represen-

tatives.

In a draft law that is expected to be presented to the national assembly soon for enactment, the delimitation exercise would enable the electoral body to establish sufficient number of polling stations or units in both old and new constituencies for easy reach by the electorate.

Relying on section 73 and 114 which deals with delimitation of constituencies, INEC according to the law does not require any other legal backing to perform this function which has been expressly conferred on it by the 1999 constitution.

The issue of the delimitation which has already attracted the attention of the National Assembly under a matter of privilege before the

Senate, the upper legislative chambers has mandated its committees on INEC and national security and intelligence to investigate the matter and make appropriate recommendation to it in two weeks.

Some Senators who may be affected by this development have kicked against it arguing that even though the constitution gives INEC some measures of independence, such independence does not elevate it to a body that is free from the inhibitions and circumscriptions of the constitution.

"Such exercise will be politicised and INEC may be partisan in the exercise if not properly operated within the strict confines of the constitution," a Senator said.

Don't arrest *contd. from pg. 1*

interim order of injunction restraining the Inspector-General of Police and the Honourable Attorney-General from arresting or initiating any criminal prosecution of our clients... on the basis of the said report pending the determination of the substantive suit," the solicitor of the Senators wrote in a letter to the Inspector-General of Police and the Justice Minister.

They maintained that the setting up of the committee by the Senate to harmonise the Kuta report was "a display of disrespect to the court and the said proceedings before it," adding that "it was another show of disrespect to the aforesaid proceedings and

court," that the Senate adopted and accepted the report.

"It is against the background of certain portions of the report which recommended that the report be referred to your office for investigation and/or prosecution of the 'indicted' Senators... even in the face of the subsisting court order of injunction and pending proceeding challenging the report that we are impelled to send this letter to you," the Senators said.

They said they were particularly compelled to ask for protection against arrest and criminal prosecution because of suggestions to that effect "by some Senators, particularly Senator Arthur

Nzeribe."

The Senate had on the 10th of April adopted the report of its harmonisation committee headed by Senator Victor Oyofe which, among other things, recommended that the criminal investigation aspect of the report be referred to the "appropriate federal agencies" for further action.

It also recommended that Senators who were indicted and found guilty should be banned from holding Senate positions.

Meanwhile, the Senate had sent all the necessary pages on the adopted report to the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice of the Federation, Chief Bola Ige for their arrest.

Obasanjo *contd. from pg. 1*

election in 2003.

Daily Trust gathered that already, the group has established branches in the United States, Britain and France and is making frantic efforts to engage members of the US black caucus in the congress and members of the Nigerian community who are expected to play significant roles in the re-election campaign.

Although the amount budgeted for the foreign campaign is not exactly known, Daily Trust gathered that most of the funds would be generated abroad through fund raising activities to be organised in major cities in the United States and Britain.

The new strategy, according to the source is hinged in the current emergence of new political associations which are seen as capable of obstructing president Obasanjo's bid for re-election in 2003.

The launching of the National Solidarity Association (NSA) by top aides of former Head of State, Gen. Ibrahim

Babangida is seen as the most disturbing political development to Obasanjo.

President Obasanjo is scheduled to visit the United States on the invitation of President George Bush on May 11, 2001, but competent sources said he would also use the opportunity to further seek assistance from his host for the 2003 elections.

"The visit will provide an opportunity for both Presidents to meet for the first time and to discuss world affairs, regional security issues, US-Nigeria economic corporation and other issues of mutual interest," declared Professor Jerry Gana, Information and National Orientation Minister.

Before the planned visit, the new United States Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Howard F. Jetter, who presented his letter of credence to President Obasanjo at the State House a fortnight ago held meeting with both the President and Vice President Atiku Abubakar behind

closed doors.

Sources said the Ambassador confirmed the readiness of the US government to assist "so long as major policies, such as privatisations, deregulation of the oil sector, among others, are to be sustained."

"All that they need is further assurance that all major economic policies introduced, as outlined by international institutions such as IMF, against corruption are vigorously going to be implemented without hitches," the source said.

Already, President Obasanjo has sent a bill proposing a five-year single term, as an amendment to the 1999 constitution, recommended by the presidential Constitution Review Committee.

It was learnt that the pro-Obasanjo campaign group has also got the support of some National Assembly members, who have embarked on an underground campaign for his re-election and the passage of the bill.

Violence *contd. from pg. 1*

was a "dangerous escalation" that would destabilise security in the region.

"Syria considers the aggression as a challenge to the will of the Arab nation. Syria holds Israel responsible for this dangerous escalation and reserves its right to defend itself against any aggression," a government spokesman said.

The official said one Syrian soldier was killed and four others were wounded in the attack. Lebanese security officials put the toll at three dead and six wounded.

Israel said the raid was

carried out in retaliation against the death of an Israeli soldier on the Lebanese-Israeli border in a Hizbollah attack on Saturday.

The strike, which Lebanese security sources said was carried out by four jets which fired six rockets at the radar station and one at another nearby hillside Syrian position, followed a special security cabinet meeting chaired by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

The Israeli army said the raid was a clear warning to Syria that it would pay if it did not drop its support for

the Hizbollah guerrillas in their border raids against Israel. Adding to the spiralling tension, Israeli jets staged mock raids later yesterday over the Syrian-held Bekaa Valley and southern Lebanon, breaking the sound barrier.

Yesterday's strike, 35 km east of Beirut, revived memories of Sharon's role in the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, when as defence minister he planned a push deep into the country that brought Israeli forces into confrontation with Syrian troops stationed there.

Slave ship *contd. from pg. 1*

rants have been issued against a businessman from Benin, Stanislas Abadant, and at least two others alleged to be organising the child-trafficking operation on board the boat.

It sailed from Cotonou on March 30 with its suspected human cargo bound for Libreville in oil-rich Gabon. But it was turned back there and again in Cameroon.

Despite international efforts to curb the trade, child slavery persists in West and

Central Africa, from where slave traders shipped millions of people to the Americas from the 16th to 19th centuries.

Aid workers had reports from police in Douala, the last to see the ship before it set out for Cotonou on Thursday, that some children on board were sick.

"By the fourth day I have started to get seriously worried and we are going to send, both to Malabo and Douala, officials from the child pro-

tection unit," Baba Moussa said.

First reports put at 250 the number of children on board the ship, described as a trawler that usually carries cargo within the region. But officials in Benin said they believed there were 180 children.

Many child slaves from countries such as Benin, Togo and Mali end up working on plantations producing cocoa and other cash crops in Gabon and Ivory Coast.

Chronology

Air raid only latest Israeli-Syrian grievance

Israel bombed a Syrian radar station in Lebanon yesterday, killing at least three Syrian soldiers, in the first Israeli attack on a Syrian position in Lebanon since April 1996.

Following is a chronology of main events in Syrian-Israeli relations November 1947 - Syria opposes U.N. General Assembly partition plan envisaging Jewish and Arab states side by side.

May 1948 - British mandate in Palestine ends, Jews proclaim state of Israel. Syria and other Arab armies invade.

July 1949 - Israel and Syria sign armistice agreement but on-and-off hostilities continue.

March 1963 - Hafeez al-Assad and other Syrian army officers seize power in bloodless coup.

June 1967 - Israel launches surprise attack on Syria, capturing strategic Golan Heights in Six Day War.

November 1967 - U.N. Security Council passes Resolution 242 calling for Israel to pull out of occupied Arab lands and for recognition of all states under the formula "land for peace".

November 1970 - Assad takes control of Baath party to become president of Syria. Launches "Correctionist Movement" to purge rivals and restore national unity.

October 1973 - Syria joins Egypt in attacking Israel.

Syrians penetrate deep into the Golan before being pushed back by Israeli troops.

May 1974 - U.N. observer force positioned in Israeli-Syrian buffer zone.

December 1981 - Israeli parliament imposes Israeli law on the Golan Heights.

June 1982 - Israel invades Lebanon with avowed aim of halting Palestinian guerrilla attacks. It withdraws the bulk of its forces in 1985, but, with local allies, keeps control of a border security zone.

October 1991 - Syria joins Jordan, Lebanon and Palestinians at groundbreaking U.S.-brokered peace conference with Israel in Madrid.

December 1991 - Syria begins direct peace negotiations with Israel in Washington. They continue intermittently with little progress until September 1993, when they are suspended.

July 1992 - Labour Party leader Yitzhak Rabin be-

comes Israeli prime minister, vowing to accelerate peace moves with Arabs.

January 1994 - Arab-Israeli peace talks resume in secret locations in United States. Syria attends negotiations, but talks are suspended again in March.

October 1994 - U.S. President Bill Clinton becomes the first U.S. president to visit Damascus, since 1973. He then flies to Israel proclaiming Syria definitely wants to make peace "but is having difficulty getting there."

November 1995 - Right-wing Jew opposed to land-for-peace deals with Arabs assassinates Rabin at rally in Tel Aviv. Shimon Peres succeeds Rabin and promises to uphold his peace legacy.

December 1995 - Israel and Syria resume peace talks at conference centre in Mary land east of Washington.

March 1996 - After four suicide bombings by Palestinian Islamic militants in which 59 people die, Israel withdraws its team from negotiations with Syria.

April 1996 - Israeli planes fire at anti-aircraft guns in Beirut, killing one Syrian soldier and wounding seven others.

The United States announces that Israel, Syria and Lebanon have agreed to resume peace talks "as soon as possible". A written but unsigned ceasefire document ends 16 days of fighting between Israeli forces and Lebanon's Hizbollah guerrillas on both sides of Israeli-Lebanese border.

May 1996 - Right-wing Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu narrowly defeats Peres in Israeli election on hardline platform against land-for-peace deals.

July 1996 - Clinton's Middle East envoy Dennis Ross makes peace trip to Damascus but fails to revive Israeli-Syrian talks.

February 1999 - Assad wins referendum granting him further seven-year term as president.

May 1999 - Labour leader Ehud Barak, former army chief of staff and ex-negotiator with Syria, trounces Netanyahu in Israeli election.

June 1999 - Assad calls Barak "a strong and honest man" who wants peace with Syria.

July 1999 - Barak takes office and pledges to work to advance peace with Syria land to withdraw Israeli troops from south Lebanon within one year.

December 1999 - Clinton announces in Washington that Israel and Syria have agreed to resume peace talks. Barak and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara meet at the White House for peace talks at the highest level ever.

January 2000 - Israeli-Syrian peace talks resume in United States, in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, but break off over Syrian demand for Israel's advance agreement to withdraw to lines held on eve of 1967 war.

March 2000 - Israel formally sets July deadline for troop, withdrawal from south Lebanon, putting pressure in Damascus which has used the withdrawal as a bargaining chip in talks.

March - Summit in Geneva between Clinton and Assad ends in failure.

May 2000 - Israel ends 22-year occupation of South Lebanon. Nobel peace laureate Shimon Peres says Israel hopes to live like "good neighbours" with Lebanon but accuses Assad of missing "the plane of peace."

June 2000 - Assad dies. Syrian parliament amends constitution to allow son Bashar, 34, to succeed him.

April 16, 2001 - Israel mounts a dawn raid on a Syrian radar station in Lebanon, 35 km east of Beirut, killing at least three Syrian soldiers. This is Israel's first raid on a Syrian target for five years.

Ministry set to harmonise functions of sanitary inspectors

Faced with the heaps of solid waste and the poor state of sanitation nationwide, the Ministry of Environment has decided to harmonise the re-introduction of sanitary inspectors, the Minister, Alhaji Muhammadu Sa'id, has said.

Speaking with the newsmen yesterday in Abuja, Sa'id noted that although sanitation was the constitutional responsibility of local councils. People often associated the ministry with environmental sanitation.

"We have therefore decided that because of the enormity of refuse and sanitation problems, we could jump-start environmental sanitation in the country," he explained.

The ministry of environment, at the end of a meeting held last year in Minna, Niger state, decided in its communiqué to re-introduce sanitary inspectors.

The Federal Government is currently rehabilitating prisons in different locations in the country to make them conducive for inmates, the Controller-General of the Nigeria Prisons Service (NPS), Alhaji Ibrahim Jarma, said in Abuja.

Jarma said that the government had started repair work on prisons since 1999, to enable them to meet international standards.

He said that the NPS had already commenced the implementation of the relevant reforms, by renovating the old prisons to bring them in line with modern prisons.

He said: "we have renovated many prisons, and in doing so we have built about 25 clinics in different prisons."

"We have also built some workshops, provided necessary facilities and other essential needs like beddings, toiletries, drugs and the construction of new full-fledged hospitals in Bauchi and Ilesha," Jarma said.

He said that under the new reforms and the mandate given to the service, it had also built and inaugurated two prison hospitals in Lagos and Kaduna.

"The prison service intends to build other full-fledged hospitals in the six geo-political zones of the country to ensure the well-being of inmates," he stated.

The Controller-General said that it was the intention of the government to equip all prisons with facilities and workshops to enable their inmates to learn trades such as tailoring, laundry services, mechanical and electrical repairs.

FG upgrades prisons to international standards

Jarma, who recently visited new prison complexes constructed in Minna, Funtua and Makurdi to assess their readiness for inauguration, said that the aim of providing facilities and updating old prisons was to enable inmates to re-integrate themselves into the society at the end of their terms.

"Under the prisons reform, the Federal Government is committed to satisfying the requirements of the UN charter on the treatment of offenders," he stressed.

"All cells in our prisons now have beds and in-built toilet facilities, clinics, doctors' rooms, workshops,

kitchens and dining halls and sports facilities to keep inmates busy, skilful and useful to the society," the Controller-General said.



Obasanjo

Adamawa expands state television

The expansion project of Adamawa State-owned television station (ATV) has begun, state Commissioner of Information Alhaji Mohammed Bappa has announced.

Speaking to journalists in Yola, the commissioner said new equipment for the expansion project had already arrived in Yola following the award of contract by the state government.

He said the state-owned radio station, the Adamawa Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) would also be expanded to widen its reach, coverage and audience.

The commissioner said that by the time the expansion projects of the two

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, Yola

broadcast media were completed, the two stations would reach every part of the state and beyond.

He also said that more workers would be employed and more money would be injected in the two expanding stations to meet their growing needs.

Alhaji Bappa appealed to government for more funding and pleaded with staff for more commitment in the discharge of their duties.

The state government had earlier announced its plan to turn its weekly newspaper, *The Scope*, into a daily newspaper.

plans to conduct a form of re-orientation by re-training these health inspectors," explained Sa'id, pointing out that the inspectors would be renamed environmental health officers (EHOs).

"By the time we do this for two years, we would have jump-started the re-introduction of house-to-house sanitation, and people would have imbibed the habit of keeping their environment

clean," he said. He disclosed that advocacy meetings would be held with all the state governors and local government chairmen before the official launching of the programme at the national level. He said the function of the state governments included the launching of the exercise at the state level, as well as the supervision and monitoring of the local governments.



Alhaji Muhammadu Sa'id

NEWS

KDSG awards contract for Refinery Road

The Kaduna State government has awarded a 1.4 billion naira contract for the dualisation of the Sabon Tasha/Refinery/Kachia Road to the PW Nigeria Ltd. on behalf of the federal

From Dare Oyewole, Kaduna

government. Daily Trust gathered that the road contract which was initially awarded by the defunct Petroleum Trust Fund (PTF) to a different contractor, was abandoned after some earthwork on it.

Speaking at the signing of the new contract in Kaduna at the weekend, the state Commissioner for Works and Transport, Alhaji Umaru Balarabe Kubau, said the condition of the road had become a problem for those plying it to the southern parts of the state.

He quoted President Olusegun Obasanjo as saying that he was dancing *palongo* on the road when he used it during his state-wide tour last year, adding that the road, when completed, would improve the economic and business life of the state.

Alhaji Kubau said

construction work would start from PAN junction up to Kaduna Refinery junction and end at a point in Goningora, saying that the single carriage part of the road would cost 3.1 million naira while the remaining dualised portion would cost 5.3 million naira.

He disclosed that the rest of the road, from Refinery junction to Kachia, had already been awarded to Dantata and Sawoe by the federal government.

In an interview with Daily Trust, Alhaji Kubau said he did not know why the PTF contractor abandoned the road and that the present evaluation was based on what was on ground.

The PW representative, Mr. Kahbub Kahn, thanked the state government for awarding the contract to his company and assured that the company would meet up with government's expectations.

Akume praises Britain for assistance

Benue State governor, Mr. George Akume, has noted with delight, the immense contributions of the British government to the state, particularly in the areas of

from foreign nations to help the state improve socio-economic fortunes, was exchanging views with a team of experts on education and cooperation led by Mr. Charles Adzo.

He disclosed that the state government was trying to take the state to greater heights but noted that there was still much to be done. He however, expressed hope that, with time, the people would start reaping democracy dividends.

The governor, who appealed to the team to ensure that its partnership with the state was solidified, assured that his administration would put in place a panel to ensure that all partnership agreements with other bodies were maintained to achieve the desired results.

Speaking earlier, the team leader, Mr. Adzo informed the governor that their mission to the state was to explore avenues for concrete partnership between the Benue State University and the University of East London, pointing out that in the course of their stay in Nigeria, they had discovered that Benue is the only state that owned a university in the north.

He assured that the team would go back and make a critical study of the aspirations of Benue State University with a view to improving it.

Mr. Adzo further disclosed that the team had plans in the pipeline to operate a private airline in which Benue State government could acquire shares.



Gov. Akume health, education and justice. Mr. Akume, who stated that the government would from time to time invite experts

Yobe unemployed youths to get interest-free loans

The Potiskum Local Government Council in Yobe State is to give its unemployed youths interest free loans in an effort "to control moral decadence and reduce crime in the society".

From Abdullahi Bego, Damaturu

The loans which must be repaid before the end of the council's tenure will be given to youths who show evidence of commitment to establishing or operating business ventures.

Unfolding the council's 2001 budget, the chairman, Alhaji Mohammed Manu, also indicated that 300 unemployed youths would be given employment by the council during the current fiscal year.

The chairman said the

council budgeted 393.5 million naira out of which 183.1 million naira would be for capital investments and 210.4 million naira for recurrent expenditure.

He said the council would build on its modest records for last year to improve water supply, primary health care services and erosion control in the local government area.

Alhaji Mohammed Manu also said that the local government council would continue to make commitments on security and protection of the people's life and property. "It is our responsibility to ensure improvement in the people's general well being," he said.

Malumfashi to enjoy improved water supply

The Katsina State government has taken measures to provide Malumfashi and its environs with adequate water.

Hassan A. Karofi, Katsina

A spokesman of the community, Alhaji Ibrahim Bako disclosed this to newsmen shortly after a meeting with the state governor, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, the state Water Resources Commissioner, Alhaji Abdul Idris Kusada, the state water board and representatives of the Malumfashi community in Katsina last week.

Alhaji Ibrahim Bako explained that the meeting identified four main measures for improving water provision in the area.

He said the state government had decided to

look into the issue of the treatment plant in Malumfashi, adding that government had directed the state's water board to immediately replace the 18-year-old network of water pipes to allow free flow of water in them.

According to him, government also agreed to fuel the power-generating set used for pumping water to enable it serve the required 18 hours pending the complete installation of transformers expected to improve power supply in the area.

To improve power supply generally in the area, Alhaji Ibrahim Bako who is also the FRCN Kaduna assistant director, programmes averred that the state government had earmarked about N20 million for the purchase of four new transformers to be installed in the town to ease the power outages being experienced.

He added that the state government had discussed the issue of power supply with the Minister of State for Power and Steel, Alhaji Muhammed Danjuma Goje, who was in Katsina to flag off the resumption of production at the Katsina Steel Rolling Mill, adding that already, the contract for the installation of a bigger transformer in Funtua to serve Malumfashi efficiently has been awarded.



Holiday makers at an Easter picnic in Abuja... yesterday

Pix: Kennedy Eghonodje

VC warns Danfodio varsity students on cultism

Students of Usmanu Danfodio University, Sokoto have been warned against examination malpractices and cultism.

From AbdulFatah Abdulsalami, in Sokoto

The vice-chancellor of the university, Professor Aminu Salihu Mikailu, gave the warning at the matriculation of new students into the university for the current academic session.

He said a total of 2,984 students had registered in the various undergraduate programmes of the university for the session.

Professor Mikailu said a breakdown of the figure showed that 2,067 students were admitted through University Matriculation Examination (UME) while the remaining 917 were given direct entry.

He disclosed that the

figures showed an increase of about 63 percent compared with last year's admission exercise.

He said there was an increased number of intakes registering for postgraduate

courses of which the number stood at 1,138 comprising of 444 postgraduate diploma, 651 masters and 43 doctorate students and explained that this showed an increase of about 52 percent over last year's figures.

He reminded the students that good degrees were not obtained by sleeping, engaging in malpractices, cultism, bribing or clandestine meetings or threats, but through hard work and respect for constituted authority.

The vice-chancellor called on the matriculating students to desist from cultism and examination malpractices saying expulsion awaited anyone caught in such behaviour.

Professor Mikailu also warned against sexual harassment or destruction of library books.



Prof. Borishade, Education Minister



Gov. Yar'Adua

NEPA relocates headquarters

Management of the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) has said that it has moved to its new and permanent corporate headquarters located at No. 1, Zambezi Crescent, near NICON Hilton Hotel, Maitama Abuja. The authority's temporary corporate headquarters had been at Area 3 Garki, Abuja.

It said in a statement that all business correspondence and enquiries should be directed to its new and that the public could reach its switchboard by telephone through 09-4135651 to 7 or the public affairs department through 09-4135606.



DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

Aminu Kano: The Sharia he lived

In a single-line tribute to his late boss and mentor, Malam Aminu Kano, Dr. Usman Ahmadu Jalingo told *Weekly Trust* three years ago that "He taught the masses to say no."

That summed up Aminu Kano's political vision. Politician extraordinaire, liberator of the people, visionary, selfless, patriotic and the undisputed godfather of radical politics in Northern Nigeria.

Exactly eighteen years ago today, he departed this mortal world. Year in year out as we commemorate his death, we are faced with the sad reality that people like him are getting rarer with each passing day.

A lot has been written about Aminu Kano both in life and after his death, but there has never been a dispute in all these writings about his unique and outstanding humanity.

His sterling qualities become all the more glaring when viewed against the Sharia phenomenon sweeping across the country today. In Aminu Kano's time, Sharia was just a disputed item on the agenda at the Constituent Assembly, it was an issue that led to emotional outbursts between politicians across the two religious divide. Yet, Malam Aminu Kano lived the Sharia. In him the Sharia was a reality without a name. He was a deeply religious, God fearing man, who successfully shunned the world and its attractions.

He had ample opportunity to be rich, as Federal Commissioner for Health during the Gowon era, but because that was not his life's ambition, he remained a poor man. His main concern, and he said it on several occasions, was for the Nigerians in particular the *Talakawas* to be liberated from all sorts of societal ills; feudal tyranny, exploitation, ignorance, disease, poverty and homelessness.

He started this struggle while a class teacher at the Maru Teachers' College in the 1920s and became a thorn in the neck of the colonial and fudal authorities. He was a founding member of the Northern Peoples' Congress (NPC) but soon fell out with its largely feudal and pre-colonial tendencies. He formed the Northern Elements Progressive Union (NEPU) which became the focal point for radical politicians in the North.

In the Second Republic he formed the People's Redemption Party (PRP) and though his party won two states - Kano and Kaduna - during the Second Republic, Aminu Kano never made any material gain from this political victory, he continued to live in the one and only house he had, the house where he led a very austere lifestyle and where he was eventually buried on April 17, 1983.

Sharia advocates and practitioners alike have a lot to learn from the shining example of Malam Aminu Kano. True Sharia is about self-denial, it is about striving for the good of all. It is also about living, dressing and eating like the common people in addition to being accessible to them at all times.

Today, Sharia is on every lip, but in truth it is only a name with very little substance. The ostentatious and grandiose lifestyle of some practitioners belies the austerity and asceticism that are the necessary hallmarks of a system that derives inspiration from divine authority.

So strong was Aminu Kano's desire to blend with the masses that Mrs. Feinstein, the wife of his American biographer, Alan Feinstein, once told a Nigerian audience that he insisted on having no fan in his house because "the people don't have it".

Perhaps nothing attests to Aminu Kano's moral rectitude and desire for inward excellence like his New Year resolution on January 1, 1975. This entry, which was made in his diary for that year at a quarter-past-midnight reads: "I will be a very strong, modest, patient, and hard working man. I will have the desire to reform the world before I die. I will live a simple, honest life that will allow you to blend easily with the common folk."

May Almighty Allah continue to grant him eternal mercies. It is our hope that present and future generations of Nigerians will develop the courage to follow his example.

TUESDAY COLUMN

Police, robbers and thieves

By Attahiru M. Jega

Almost daily, there are stories of armed robberies, which seriously indict the Nigeria Police. There are brazen day-light robberies; there are organized, evidently syndicated 7p.m. to 9p.m. robberies; and there are all sorts of petty and grand thievery in all sorts of unbelievable places. Life for ordinary Nigerians is truly becoming nasty, brutish and short, no thanks to thieves and armed robbers. Unfortunately, the police seem unable, or unwilling, to do anything about it. Either some renegades amongst them are involved, or the guns are rented from them, Either they are paid to stay off the roads, to literally look the other way, until well after the operation or they arrive the scene of the crime long after the robbers had gone. In many places, it is no use reporting a crime to the Police, either because the frustration is unimaginable, or because their negative response is so predictable.

Then, there are the endless road-blocks, so-called check-points, where nothing is really checked, but at which money is extorted from hapless citizens, The Police High Command may want us to believe that they have official ended all but the 'necessary' search-and-go and check-points. But they are still there. Dotted all over the country, parked strategically along the Highways, are pick-ups and Land Cruisers carrying gun-totting men (interestingly, there are no women), extorting money from commercial vehicles and begging or inducing bribes from private vehicles.

Rightly or wrongly, many Nigerians are now saying that it is becoming increasingly very difficult to distinguish the Police from the robbers and thieves. The image of the Police in the minds of citizens is at its lowest point. There are certainly very good officers and recruits in the force, occasionally one hears of their good work. But these are isolated cases. The bad ones have overwhelmed the force, and have been giving it a bad name. The Police High Command, on its part has been excessively politicized and, additionally, seems too meek, inefficient, if not terribly corrupt, to be able to concretely address the canker-worm, which is weakening wasting away the Police.

There is no gain-saying that a country without a decent and effective Police will know no peace, stability or prosperity. Such situation, if the rich and prosperous sleep at all, it would be with the proverbial one eye open. The poor, on the other hand, would continue to suffer from lawlessness of all gradations, either from the extortion mated on them by legally armed forces, or from execution lawlessness and the rapacious practices of the rich and the powerful.

Thus, reform and change in the Police force is necessary and desirable. Indeed, there have been a lot of talk and seeming action about reforming the Police. Retirements, dismissals, and so on, have been effected, all to no appreciable effect. At a time, even the uniforms were changed, on the mistake belief that, that could improve their image; they changed from blue to black, and it seems from bad to worse! The more one sees, the less one understands what is going on.

There are many problems with the Nigeria Police. First, there is the problem of poor living and working conditions. The Police is poorly paid, poorly equipped and poorly trained. Salaries and wages are paid long in arrears, the equipment they use often obsolete and outdated, and management procedures terribly out-of-date. Second, they are poorly recruited and inefficiently organized and corruptly managed it is a sad testimony to how things are run in this country, that those who are expected to risk their lives in protection and defense of others are neither motivated nor adequately insured. When injured or killed in national service, their families are often left to shoulder most, if not all, the burden.

Third, and importantly, is the problem associated with the philosophy, strategy and tactics of running the Nigeria Police. The philosophy seems to abstract and elitist, or crudely status. The Police does not seem to be serving the ordinary Nigerians, and it does not seem to be community-oriented. Officers and other ranks seem to have a definition of national service, which is too remote from the needs and expectations of the communities in which they are serving. For example, the centralized nature of the Police Command creates a unitary approach to dealing with crime, peace and security, even when the reality on the ground, associated with our diversity, dictate otherwise. This, I believe is part of the baggage carried from our distorted notions of federalism and the role

of the central government in running a Police force.

However, although the problems with the Nigeria Police are enormous, they are not insurmountable. It's just that we have not tried hard enough to solve them. Thus we should try harder. How can these problems be solved? There are clearly conventional solutions. First, there is certainly a case for a substantially increased funding of the Police. There is need for better and improved wages and working conditions and there is equally the need for constant training for both officers and other ranks so as to improve the operational efficiency of the force. But it is not just enough to provide funds. The recent verbal exchanges reported in the newspapers between the Minister of Police Affairs and a group of Police Officers on non-payment of salaries is instructive. While government must provide sufficient funds to the Police, the accounts and payroll sections of the Police need an over-hauled. Those responsible for 'ghost workers' should be flushed out; those sitting on the entitlements of others also need to be shown the way out.

Second, there must be a well-focused restructuring and re-orientation of the Police. This should be accompanied by a surgical operation in within the force to weed out the thieves and robbers in their midst. The anti-corruption crusade in the Police should be intensified. When those responsible for checking and monitoring bad practices are actually connivers in criminal activities, then there is a long way to go before things can get better. Hence, the right personnel should be found to man both the anti-robbery and anti-corruption units within the Police force. Just as in other sectors of the public service, the best way to proceed is to start and keep on setting the right examples; by rewarding deserving officers and punishing/firing the guilty ones.

Then, there is the unconventional solution. For example, Policing should be brought nearer to the people and in their control and influence. We must move towards decentralizing policing in Nigeria. A federal Police has its uses, and may have served Nigerian well in many important respects, but those days are gone. However best this can be done, at both state and local government levels, the Chief Security Officers must have a firm control on the activities of the Police in their communities. Otherwise, DPOs and Commissioners of Police would continue to either obstruct or frustrate genuine efforts at their various levels, using the excuse of belonging to the central/federal government.

The Nigeria Police has come a long way. But it has a lot more to go before it can become the kind of Police force desired to meet the needs of our nation. There have been too many half measures or no measures at all. It is time to be more serious in reforming and restructuring the Nigeria Police. There is no place for thieves and robbers in the Police. Let us show them the way out, please, so that the good ones, with greater motivation and security of tenure, can continue with the job of preventing and detecting crimes, as well as, protecting lives and property.

LETTER OF THE DAY

Congratulations

I join thousands of Nigerians in congratulating you on your hard work and dedication to duty. May Almighty Allah in order to give us the best, you must endeavour to be different from others.

I am also very happy to be associated with you. per, the *Daily Trust* and also the newly introduced *Daily Trust* Management of this media

Opinion

Tazarce Syndrome: Democracy or dictatorship?

Tazarce or *Tamike* is a fairly recent coinage referring to a self-succession concept pursued by the late Head of State, General Sani Abacha, may his soul rest in peace, amin. The concept was buried with the late General. His successor, General Abdulsalami Abubakar (rtd.) carefully scanned and accurately monitored the pulse of the nation, and was convinced beyond reasonable doubt that it was time for the Khaki men to quit in the best interest of the nation.

When it was evident that the military would relinquish power to a democratically elected government, the pulse of the nation normalized. This is because Nigerians, particularly the politicians, were no longer doubtful of General Abubakar's sincerity. His statements were always reassuring - he never uttered expression as vague as "this administration would not stay a day longer than necessary" like his predecessors.

Saturday, 29th May, 1999 saw the inauguration of democracy in Nigeria. The new set of leaders at all the three tiers of government were received with warmth goodwill and support. Half-way into their tenures, I believe it is not premature to expect to see democratic dividends or their approaching signs.

If media reports are anything to go by and with disappointing evidence nation-wide, one can rightly conclude that the politician's promises of equality and social justice have been kept due to their refusal (is it failure) to conduct the art of governance in a way that will impact positively on the lives of Nigerians who voted them into office.

The Federal Government:-

The first one hundred days of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria promised performance and hope. Positive achievements were recorded. But this was short lived by the unnecessary wrangling between Mr. President on one hand and the distinguished members of the National Assembly on the other. In most cases the tango is on purely personal interests, which have no prospects to the happiness and self-respect of the citizens of our dear nation.

Muhammad Hadi Balaraba

Events and instances have shown that never had any government in the history of our nationhood exhibited naked nepotism like the present one. Another terrifying thing is its approach to its responsibility of protection of the lives, honours and properties of the people. The approach is demonstrably loose and therefore, ineffective.

The State Governments:-

The story in the states across the country is largely the same. The state chief executives and the lawmakers, with some honourable exceptions, run the governments more or less like their private establishments. Most of them have lavishly put in the highest bid to put the party executives and legislatures under complete silence and control. There are one thousand and one examples one can cite to substantiate this point. The most disturbing thing is that, there is a state or two in the north of which the leadership, after almost two years in office is either in a mark-time march position or is still on the drawing board. With this kind of attitude, one may ask when would the electorate enjoy the benefit of their going to polls?

The Local Governments:-

Again, with some honourable exceptions, the local government leaderships are equally as reckless as most of the State governors.

However, in as much as no one sensible person can, for whatever reason, dare to exonerate them from blame, this writer, even though not holding brief for the local government executives, is only sympathizing with their situation for the following reasons:-

Firstly, given the fact that the state governments have some measure of control over the local government councils makes it difficult for some local government chairmen with initiative to perform. Quite very good proposals from local councils are delayed or even killed on the mighty tables of some governors under the pretext that the latter want to check the former's alleged misuse of resources. But ironically enough, sometimes the same state governors direct the local government chairmen

to misuse the public funds to satisfy the interest of the State governments and that of the ruling parties.

Secondly, sometimes local governments are burdened unnecessarily with projects that are supposed to be financed and executed either the by Federal or State governments. One wonders why it is so, in spite of the fact that there exist budgetary provisions for such projects by the state or federal governments. Where do such funds go if one may ask?

Thirdly, the poor chairmen are open to ridicule most. They are closer to the people; hence their shortcomings are more exposed and talked about. The bitter truth is that some chief executives of the States comparatively do worst things than what a chairman of local government does. Let us not be unmindful of the fact that the chairmen mostly do not have protocol; and where there is one it is breached by the people who believe that they made the chairmen, and therefore, must be given a hearing no matter how irrelevant the issue they present. Is Mr. President or Mr. Governor operating in this kind of atmosphere? Certainly no. The two are well organized and well protected, while the poor chairmen spend most of their time day in day out dealing or rather cushioning the blow of redundancy of the down-trodden people who have no easy access to his excellency the President or the Governor. All the excuses in favour of the chairmen nevertheless, their performances are largely not encouraging.

In the light of the above picture of the present dispensation, it is a foregone conclusion that what we witness today in the name of democracy is no better than the Military dictatorship of two years ago. It is glaringly clear that the outfit constitutionally put in place for the purposes of checks and balances are only there in name. The parties' leaderships and the lawmakers in all the states have throw caution to the winds.

This reminds me of a State governor who boasted of his unquestionable influence over the State Legislators; he said he had proposed a law, in order to curtail what he considered a menace by a section of the society, sent it to the State Assem-

bly the same day; and he said he was pretty sure that the honourables would do the first, second and third readings of the law, pass it and sent it back to him for his executive assent. And believe it or not this became a reality in less than twenty-four hours. Is this democracy? Personally, I would prefer to call it a dictatorship and a typical case of betrayal of trust and mandate.

It is funny, very funny indeed that the whole leadership, in the country, is in the grip of "Tazarce" mania, being sponsored by those in power and fanned by their hired agents. This clearly depicts the thinking of our leaders that they performed wonderfully to our satisfaction so much that we desire to see them re-elected for another term of office. The anecdotes being forwarded to justify the self-succession bid are as hilarious as they are foolish.

The phenomenon of "Tazarce" syndrome as far as I am concerned, exposes its sponsors as selfish, cowards and defeatists. It is an attempt to continuously cling to power so that they can have enough time to perpetuate this brand of democracy, which from all practical purposes is dictatorial. This will not augur well for Nigeria.

For quite sometime now, the "Tazarce" syndrome has been a subject of public concern. A number of hypotheses have been put forward as to what may be the possible consequences if our leaders insist to venture on such an ambition. The most likely thing to happen, going by our history, is that the country would be thrown into a complete turmoil: this time around a kind of which not even the might of the United States of America and NATO put together can prevent the men or even boys in Khaki from coming back. God forbid.

Finally, the leaders must come to term with the fact that they can achieve self-succession only if they selflessly work hard to make it possible for the common man to achieve happiness, self respect and be free from anxiety, the problem he is now facing as a result of insecurity, poverty, ignorance, disease, propaganda, deceit etc.

Muhammad Hadi Balaraba is of *Kwalan-Kwalan* quarters, *Katsina*.

Has N30billion recovered loot gone missing?

By Alade Balogun

It is no longer news that the present administration has made very frantic efforts toward recovering monies looted by the Late dictator, General Sani Abacha, his family members and associates. Up till now over USD710,253,024.57 and £97,858,883 and about \$52,000,000 and £30,000,000 was recovered locally.

Although some recoveries were made during the administration of General Abdulsalami Abubakar, the issue assumed a greater significance during the present civilian administration. Indeed, court cases have had to be instituted since May, 1999 to give legal banking to the bid to recover all recoverable loot within and outside the country.

At the center of this effort is no other than the National Security Adviser, NSA to the President, Aliyu General Muhammed Gusau (rtd.). This effort has meant several man-hours and lots of travels to foreign capitals where it is believed such funds are lodged. The USA has also given a regular up date on the progress of investigations, amounts recovered and the stages in the court case to President Olusegun Obasanjo and the relevant committees of the National Assembly.

As the federal government pursues this case in courts, the

interest of lawyers in such a case can not be underestimated. In many cases the lawyers see such cases as a goldmine and the extent they can go to realize their selfish interests cannot also be underestimated. This include the use of the press to destroy whoever stood in their way to realizing their selfish interests.

It is in this context that the cover of *The NEWS* newsmagazine of April 9, 2001 with the screaming headline: "N30billion Abacha loot missing", with a rider: "Recovery Effort crashes" should be seen.

No one who knows President Olusegun Obasanjo's commitment to not only the recovery of Abacha loots but also to jumpstart the economy could believe that he would allow the effort toward the recovery of such loots be shrouded in secrecy. Indeed at every opportunity, he has told the nation the amounts recovered, where they are lodged (in the CBN), if and what any part thereof has been use for. Such occasions include the several media chat the president had on National Television.

It is therefore, ludicrous as *The News* magazine alluded that, "And with the secretive rings round his (NSA) efforts, the critics are charging that he has been withholding vital information on the loot recovery process from

such relevant government organs as the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN; the Federal Ministries of Finance, Foreign Affairs as well as the office of the Attorney-General of the Federation."

The paper went on with the theatre of the absurd when it went further to allege that: "The critics are even further alarmed that the NSA created parallel structures in his office. First he created a legal department charged with untying the sticky, legal knots in the loot recovery process. Then the Special Investigation Panel (SIP), constituted by the then Abdulsalami Abubakar regime was more or less retained by the NSA as an internal police to help in the investigation and interrogation of alleged looters. The NSA by way of very terse memos usually reported "progress" to President Olusegun Obasanjo"

The question to ask is: Who are these unidentified critics? The looted monies belong to Nigeria and the efforts towards its recovery should concern all Nigerians and that is why nobody, not even President Obasanjo has made secret any effort relating to the matter.

The News magazine admitted that part of the so-called, parallel structures existed even before the Obasanjo administration and alluded to the fact that "progress" has also been reported to the

President.

However, more disturbing is the complete disregard for all known journalistic ethic of giving a fair hearing to all in such a story. It is no small news if *The NEWS* uncovered that N30 billion is "missing". It is even more dramatic and even more newsworthy that, as *The NEWS* alleged, "fingers point at the NSA". What one would then expect is to hear the side of the NSA who name and office *The News* magazine made over 50 reference to. But, alas no effort was made by *The News* magazine to get even a "no comment" answer from the NSA. Much as one cherish the ventilating air of freedom guaranteed by the democratic dispensation, I shudder to think that our press could exercise this freedom without responsibility.

The NEWS even published a letter by one Chief Afe Babalola, a SAN to President Olusegun Obasanjo. I hope *The NEWS* magazine could put the lawyers in the court cases in a better perspective so that its readers could better appreciate its motive for the publication.

I believe the NSA himself at the appropriate time could tell his own side of the story but my concern here is that journalism has ethics and the said article in *The NEWS* has fallen short of it.

Alade Balogun is of No. 2, *Jebba Road, Ilorin*

Al-Muharram: Why the silence?

By Abdullahi M. Sulciman

For the Muslim *Ummah* world wide, the first day of the month of *Muharram* heralds the commencement of a new Islamic calendar. However, this important day usually go un-noticed by the majority of the Muslims. Rather, they are so much obsessed with the Gregorian/Christian calendar that if you asked some of them to count the 12 months in the Islamic calendar in chronological order, you are bound to be disappointed. Therefore, it is not surprising to see Muslim brothers, especially in the southern part of the country, joining their Christian counterparts to celebrate the first of every January by offering special prayers in Mosques for good health and prosperity for the remaining months of the new year. And because of this ignorance, Muslim brothers have deprived themselves of the abundant rewards in some of these months as they are required by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to observe one form of workshop or the other.

Furthermore, renowned Islamic historians have taught us that each month in the Islamic calendar has a unique or importance attached to it either in the history of Islam or in the history of mankind as a whole. For instance, the first month, *Al-Muharram*, witnessed a lot of major and important historical events in the history of mankind, right from the time of Prophet Adam to the time of the last messenger of Allah to mankind, Prophet Muhamad (PBUH). However, of all the days in the months of *Al-Muharram* that the Almighty Allah, in His infinite mercy, finally forgave our father and His noble prophet, Adam, and his wife, Hawwa, after their expulsion from paradise.

Also, Prophet Noah and his companions on the ark were safely delivered. It was on the same day that Prophet Yunus was saved from the belly of the fish. Similarly, it was the very day Prophet Isa was saved from crucifixion and taken to heaven. And our beloved messenger of Islam, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) also received some special blessings from the Almighty Allah on the same day.

The seventh month, *Rajab*, is important in the pursuance and maintenance of peace and harmony. Therefore, Muslims are prohibited from declaring any kind of war in this month. The eight month, *Sha'aban*, is unique because it is the month in which the night of record for human being, whether good or bad, are made. The ninth month, *Ramadan* is the month in which the Almighty Allah revealed the Holy Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The night of majesty, *Lailatul Qadr*, which is equivalent to a thousand months occurs in this month. It is also the month where Muslims all over the world observe obligatory fasting, an important pillar of Islam. The tenth month, *Shawwal*, falls at the end of the *Ramadan* fasting period which is marked by *id-el-fitr*. In this month, a muslim is required to fast for six days, *Sitta-Shawwal*.

The eleventh month, *Zul-Qidah*, is a special month for the attainment of individual and collective peace. And the last and the twelfth month, *Zul-Hajj*, is the month set aside by the Almighty Allah for the performance of the Holy pilgrimage to Mecca for all muslims that have the means.

However, in the Gregorian/Christian calendar, all the 12 months in the calendar were either named after dieties, figures or individuals. Let's take the first month, January, that was named after Janus-the Roman pagan god of doorways and beginnings. February from Februa-the Pagan roman god for purifications. March from Mars-the Roman pagan god of war; April from the latin Aprillis, and May from Maria, pagan Roman goddess of growth and spring seasons; June from Juno, the sister, the wife and co-equal partner of Jupiter, the supreme Roman pagan god; July was named after the famous Roman leader, Julius Ceasar, by the Roman senate in 44 B.C. August, was named after Augustus Ceasar, while the months of September, October, November and December derived their names from the latin figures of 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th respectively.

From the foregoing, therefore, muslims who do not know the importance of the months in the Islamic calendar and the true meanings of the 12 months in the Gregorian/Christian calendar, have now been given the option to choose which of the two calendars is more important to them. Indeed, most of the problems facing the muslim *Ummah* in the world today with regards the sighting of the moon for the observance or commencement of the Ramadan fasting or the actual day for offering sacrifice (*adha*) are mostly hinged on our non-challant attitude towards observing the Islamic calendar. I believe, if adequate attention is given to the Islamic calendar, most of these differences would be reduced. Therefore, the first of every *Muhrram* should not go un-noticed- it should be publicised for every muslim to know.

Abdullahi Mohammed Suleiman, is of the *Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi state*.

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SHARIA'S DEPUTY GOVERNOR LEADS RAID ON HOTELS
— NEWS



YOUR LETTERS

Hashidu 's Legacy and 2003

The recent formation by stealth a committee christen "Tazarche" by Governor Hashidu of Gombe State should be of serious concern to all well meaning indigenes of the state. The committee which has started paving way for Hashidu's re-election is under the Chairmanship of a renegade Politician, Alhaji Yau Deba (he was in A.D. before cross carpet to P.D.P and later A.P.P).

Initially, one thought his ambition to re-contest is a mere speculation knowing that the state governor is not half-way into his tenure and also most of his campaign promises are yet to be fulfilled. However, Hashidu clear the air in an interview he granted the *Newswatch* of February, 19, 2001 which when asked if he will re-contest he, without scruple answered in the affirmative.

Ordinarily, every well-meaning person ought to

have ambition provided it is not inordinate. One is not opposed to the governor's ambition to remain as chief executive of Gombe State till 2007 so long as the governor's conscience is clear with his stewardship. But from what is transpiring in Gombe State, it seems the governor is under the illusion that his programme are applauded by the people due to deliberate refusal by those that are around him to acquaint him with sentiment or perception of the people as regard his style of governance.

It's not an over-statement to say despite spirited effort by Hashidu's praise-singers to portray him a performer, his administration remains the worst since the creation of the state. *Sharia* which is of course the right of Muslim became an incubus in Gombe State due to the governor's double-talk on it's implementation. It is on record that in his State-wide tour in June

last year purportedly to preach the gospel of peace, the governor promised the people of the Northern part of the state who are predominately Muslim, full implementation of the *Sharia* legal system only to assured the people of the Southern part who are predominantly Christian that *Sharia* will not be implemented in the State. That singular act sparked-off the Bamam religious riot, people who hitherto co-exist peacefully. What is most disheartening is the reality that most of the victims were not properly compensated.

The recent merciless killings of members of an Islamic sect who were peacefully protesting the visit of Israeli ambassador to Gombe State by the Police at the instance of the governor is Hashidu most indelible legacy.

Comrade Ayuba Hassan, Kalorgu-Kaltungo,

Governor Saminu Turaki, pay our retirement benefits please.

His Excellency may recall that this is the third time I have the cause to write him over our plight as retiree from his state, who have for long been waiting to receive our entitlement after serving the state meritoriously for years. It is my hope that his excellency may not be perturbed by my incessant writing as I find it necessary to once again intimate him over our continued plight since leaving the Jigawa State service. Perhaps Sir, you may wish to know that since 1999 there are about 500 retirees who have either leave the service voluntarily or were rationalized but have not received

their benefits let alone begin enjoying their pension.

Consequently sir, a number of us are now in pitiful conditions as we are left to cater for ourselves and the large army of dependants.

This situation coupled with the prevailing economic hardship in the country has pushed a number of us to resort to degrading means of livelihood.

Furthermore, this condition has forced many of us to withdrew our children from schools, as we find it very difficult to pay their fees. Sir, it is in view of this and the fact that no effort is being made toward alleviating our suffering either di-

rectly or indirectly that I deem it necessary to call the attention of your excellency to our plight.

It is our sincere hope that since your administration is a humane and a listening one, you will sincerely do everything possible to settle our entitlements such as gratuity and the likes as well as commencing the payment of our pension.

Doing this we believe, will put back smiles on the faces of our families.

Umar Abdulkadir, No. 59, Bayi quarters, Hadejia, Jigawa state.

Adamawa State University: A political gimmick?

The recent declaration by the executive Governor of Adamawa State on the proposed creation of a state University is something worth examining with a magnifying glass. This is because what is involved to build, equip, sustain and maintain a University should be seen beyond a campaign rhetorics or a political gimmick. One would commend the governor for his genuine concern to take the state out of its present educational predicament. The question now is: is the creation of a state University

a most pressing issue?

Adamawa State government has a number of tertiary institutions that it exerts total and absolute control on. These among others include; Adamawa State Polytechnic, with campuses at Yola and Numan, College of Education, Hong, College of Agriculture, Mubi, College for Legal Studies, etc.

To begin with, the Adamawa State Polytechnic, till to date has no permanent site. Apart from the issue of its permanent site the school is yet to be accredited by the National Board for Technical

Education, (NBTE) except for one or two diploma courses which the board accredited, which are purely science related. This development is restricting those that have undergone academic programme in the Polytechnic to secure employment in the state government establishment only. Only its Interim Joint Matriculation Board Examinations. (IJMB) certificate that is of immense importance to students who are willing to pursue degree programme in institution of higher learning in the country.

The case of College for Legal Studies is the more pathetic. The whole school, in terms of land mass is not more than the faculty of science in the University of Maiduguri.

The students are Jam-packed in the institution that lacks the most basic facilities of classroom blocks or lecture theater. Their permanent site is also a mirage after about a decade or more of its take-off. The college of Education, Hong, is yet to take-off fully, this is largely due to lack of funds and some basic facilities an institution

requires. The courses the aforementioned schools offer are very few, after a very long period of existence.

These can be one of the crucial factors that inform the spontaneous proliferation of University satellite campuses in the state. Which came and within a very short period of time appeared to have gain grounds, particularly in the state capital, despite the fact that these are mobile academic institutions that move with neither library nor bookshop!

The state government should not embark on a

'wasteful' project which its completion, sustenance and maintenance will not be feasible till after decades. By doing that the government will be creating an avenue for corruption, which will take its cause under the guise of "rolling" it (the Project) in their financial budgets.

What should be done is to supplement both the structural, human and financial requirement of those institutions already on ground. Efforts should be to ensure that Adamawa State Polytechnic is fully accredited by the NBTE, and courses in Arts and Humanities should be introduced. When this is done, the foundation for a successful state University would have been laid down. An easy sources of input and feasibility assessment, particularly from academic personnel, and their intellectual resources from the institutions on grounds will then be unutilized. The state legislatures should, on the other hand, advice the executive, when the proposed bill for the creation of the said University is placed on their table. To build, equip, maintain a University is not something that can be done using a political gimmick.

Abubakar Mohammed Sambo, School of Post-graduate studies, University of Maiduguri

Let's have a labour party

It is now one and a half years of democratic rule in Nigeria, after many years of military regimes.

However, from all indications history is repeating itself.

This is because, almost all the problems associated with the military rule are still visible. Corruption, under development, unemployment, poverty, crime etc, is at an alarming rate.

In fact, the situation now is worse than before, even with the so-called democratic rule in place.

Against this background, I am calling on the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) and all progressive minded individuals and groups to come to the rescue. And since politics is a game practice by men of principle, our principled labour leaders in the country should come together and form a masses oriented labour party to contest the 2003 presidential election.

Once again, I am calling on the NLC and its leaders, Comrade Adams Oshiomole, progressive individuals like Chief Gani Fawehinmi,

Balarabe Musa, Dr. Yusuf Bala Usman, Dr. Attahiru Jega, Col. Abubakar Dan Giwa Umar (Rtd), Prof. Eskotoyo, Shehu Sani, Muhammadu Buhari, Yakubu Gowon, Shehu Shagari, and other progressive individuals and groups to come together urgently and form a labour party, in order to salvage Nigeria from corruption, under development and stagnation.

Ado Ibn Usman, P.O. Box 2623, Maiduguri.

Give me this address

Kindly give me the address of the Institute of Islamic Banking and Insurance London through sister Rakiya Ibrahim Sanusi of the same Institute whose articles appeared in your *Daily Trust* of 2nd and 3rd April, 2001.

Please extend our sincere regards to her for her contributions to the

Daily Trust columns.

Tropical Commercial Bank Plc, No. 12 Imani Estate Shehu Shagari Way, Maitama District, FCT-Abuja.

The Institute's address is: 16, Grosvenor Crescent, Belgravia, London Sw1x 7EP, United Kingdom.

- Editor.

ADVERTORIAL

RE: FEDERALISM IN NIGERIA

We are alarmed by the recent widely Advertorial rejoinder sponsored by His Excellency Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Governor of Lagos State on the factual remarks made by his colleague, His Excellency, Mohammed Adamu Aliero, Governor of Kebbi State. Let it be understood from the outset that, Governor Aliero did not claim that his view on "True Federalism" represents the conviction of the nineteen Northern States' Governors or the Federal Government. However, if his view on this thorny national discourse tallies with the belief of his colleagues in the North, the Federal Government, any other person or institutions so be it.

It needs to be repeated here for record that, what Kebbi State Governor said against "True Federalism" as conceived and propagated by Governor Tinubu and others from the other side of the Niger is based on the Law of the land. In other words, what he said was that, "True Federalism" of the variant of the former Senator, especially as it relates to Resources Control, State Police, and Sovereign National Conference etc, is simply unconstitutional and impracticable under the current dispensation.

Yes, Governor Aliero calls for review of present Statutory Allocation in favour of State and Local Governments. His basis of this call was anchored on the apparent disproportionate responsibilities of Federal Government on one hand and States and Local Governments on the other hand. It is common knowledge that the on going privatisation exercise has afforded the Federal Authorities with an opportunity to shade some of its weighty responsibilities. Therefore, to equate this honest and logical appeal with resources control as simply wrong!

In deed. We quite appreciate the view, lecture or sermon on the beauty of "True Federalism" as adumbrated by the self appointed leader of its proponents. Yet, the fact is all that Governor Tinubu adduced are mere ideals and wishful thinking, which are fundamentally and dramatically opposed to the concrete reality of our present circumstances and the very law on which the corporate existence of this nation is predicated. Governor Tinubu will have done a great service if he has been kind enough to also educate us on the most likely negative repercussions of adopting his pet project because, complete re-structuring of Nigeria is bound to generate reactions which might be unprecedented.

May we remind the Lagos State Chief Executive and by extension all others who, for reasons whatsoever, misconstrued, misinterpreted or misrepresented what Governor Aliero enunciated that, based on the provisions of the 1999 Constitution, which all elected representatives of the people of this Country swore to defend, protect and uphold now and at all times "True Federalism" is illegal and unpracticable in today's Nigeria. It is unbelievable that, politician of Governor Tinubu's standing would fail to realised that, Resources Control, State Police and Sovereign National Conference no matter how well intentioned and or co-ordinated at this stage of our national life will not make this Country better than it is today. We appreciate the instances of where "True Federalism" of the type Governor Tinubu was advocating especially, as practised in the United States of America and Canada. But unfortunately the Governor failed to realise that, each of these advanced democracies has its peculiarities and nuances quite distinct and different from the other. It could be suggested that, the Governor needs to acquaint himself with the history of each of the developed federations and juxtapose it with our nascent federation.

We feel it is uncharitable of our respected former senator to lecture us on the gains of "True Federalism" prior to 1966 and what the "North" or Northern States stand to gain in national life under his ideal restructured federation of Nigeria. We must not allow ourselves to be victims of the wrong assumption earlier held by our colonial masters that, Nigeria as a nation is made up of separate, distinct and irreconcilable entities. Over the years, irrespective of

the stratagem or mischief of the elite, the Northern people have passed over the amplified tribal, ethnic, religious, regional and other mundane barriers or inhibitions through commerce, marriages, domiciles and scholarship. Therefore, any attempt to create artificial separate-hood now will be a negation of irreversible process. No one, Governor Tinubu inclusive, should be under any illusion that, we are incapable of discerning our interest and act accordingly.

It is a fact that, a lot must be done to move this Country forward. It is also true that we must exercise restraint and high degree of perseverance if, as patriots, we are committed to the philosophy of the founding fathers of this great African nation. No nation throughout human history has ever achieved perfection in the practice of whatever system of Government is embraced or it claimed to have established. We therefore, begged to differ with the summation of the Lagos State Governor that, re-structuring (whatever it means) would automatically transform our nation into an Eldorado of sort. May we also remind the former Senator that, the struggle for 'resource control' despite its currency is a nascent one and has nothing to suggest that its realisation will bring about the emergence of the Nigerian nation of our dream. Similarly, while we abhor the inadequacies of the members of the Nigerian Police, we can not trust a Police Force in the hands of those incapable of even symbolic condemnation of genocide perpetrated by their tribal warlords. Equally, we are not against any form of dialogue so long as it does not amount to the abdication of the sovereignty of the people of this country, which is entrusted in our elected representatives. Therefore, no meaningful national dialogue must jettison our elected representatives.

It is worth stressing here that, contrary to the inference of the Lagos State Chief Executive, Governor Aliero's rejection of Sovereign National Conference is not based on the fear that it may lead to the disintegration of this Country. We wish to believe that, Governor Aliero does not love the corporate existence of this nation better than the former Senator. However, we are of the opinion that, no section of the country not even a Local Government Area will perish outside the Nigerian enterprise. Yet, none of our geo-political zones irrespective of their endowments will be stable and prosperous outside the Nigerian family.

Governor Tinubu is quite aware as well as we do that, "True Federalism" can not be attained without amending the relevant sections on the 1999 constitution by whose grace he found himself where he is today. Therefore, instead of employing threat and blackmail, the apostles of "True Federalism" should employ persuasion through the instrumentality of reason and civility. Otherwise, the on-going nihilist campaign for the enthronement of Resource Control, State Police, Sovereign National Conference etc will inhibit our effort to establish enduring democracy, peace and stability in Nigeria.

Undoubtedly, the shared wisdom in our part of the Country is to allow the present Constitution despite its imperfections, shortcomings and all other constraints to simmer down in a couple of year or possibly a decade before we begin to address those areas that require amendment, change or even outright expulsion. This was the experience of the nation, which Governor Tinubu wants us to emulate over bight.

Finally, we are not afraid of the on-going effort of Mr. President to introduce national conference through the back door because, whatever is arrived at, such conclusions must be subjected to the full rigour of the relent sections of the 1999 Constitutions before enforcement.

Signed:

JAFARU HAMZA

*For & on behalf of concerned
Indigenes of Kebbi State.*

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

FOREIGN & DIPLOMAT

50 million to act

Epilepsy affects 50 million people worldwide, 80 percent of whom live in developing countries including Nigeria. This revelation was made by the Minister of State for Health, Dr. Amina Ndalolo in Abuja.

She promised that the Ministry of Health was poised to take advantage of

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

the 2001 World Health Day celebration to commence comprehensive control measures for the disease and other mental health disorders at all levels of health care.

She announced that at the global level, a campaign against epilepsy tagged "Epi-

...ic of Congo visited Nigeria last week, 26.

...in the DRC (MONUC) and free movement for former Botswana president, Sir ... on a new political dispensation for

... said there would never be democratic ... He spoke to IRIN in Kinshasa, about

...imistic. ...at your ...ola and ...o clear ...troops.

operate with the invaders as a way of finding a solution, the Interahamwe problem isn't a Congolese one.

You have generated enormous expectations by promising to revive the inter-Congolese dialogue. Opposition parties are concerned that no concrete measures have yet been taken in this regard. They want you to abolish the decree outlawing the activities of political parties. Why hasn't anything been done so far?

In every country, there are laws. No one is above the law. Political parties here, as well as in Europe, must be controlled - if you will permit me to use the word control. We are in the process of studying in which context these political parties could resume their activities. We have about 150 political parties. I do not think that one should get into irrelevant discussions at this stage.

What time-frame do you envisage for the inter-Congolese dialogue?

It's Ketumile Masire who has the cards in his hands. He is taking his time, of course, to consult everyone so that we can go as fast as possible towards this dialogue. But this calendar or agenda, I do not know it. We are awaiting the conclusions of the facilitator.

After you came to power, you made a commitment to liberalising the Congolese



Kabila

Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

diamond market. Where do you now stand on this issue?

The government is working hard on this subject of the liberalisation of the country's diamond market. There is a company called IDI Diamonds with which the government is currently negotiating.

We're trying to reach an agreement with them on how to free up the market, in which they have a monopoly. That will take us at least two to four weeks, then hopefully we'll have a result. We must fight against smuggling and attract the investment that we need - but especially so because the riches of Congo should be for the Congolese people, not for one or two people, or one or two companies.

In your short time as president you have given clear signs that you want change in your country. You also seem not to endorse the "cult of the leader." It was reported that you were unhappy with a recent demonstration in Kinshasa in support of your policies.

I cannot say that I was displeased with that demonstration, but the Congolese people must judge me on what I do, not on what I say or the

How would you judge his term in office?

I do not believe that it is very different. It is not for me to judge the governance of my father.

What's the status of the investigation into his assassination?

The investigation continues. We should have a report within a week or so, and will then share it with the Congolese people.

Is there a leader or form of governance that you admire or identify yourself with?

As for leaders, it would be Patrice Lumumba and my late father, Laurent-Désiré Kabila of Congo. But what is there in Africa? Total misery. No, there isn't really any model.

General Abdulsalami Abubakar, who seized power in Nigeria in June 1999, made a fairly dignified withdrawal from power so as to allow the democratic process to flourish. What are your plans?

The Congolese people will decide my fate, not I. I would like to see Congo united. I would like to have it invaded no more. For the moment, that is my objective. We



it has been locked in these past few years. To change its image and restore foreign aid, are these your goals?

Foreign aid? No. The number one problem of Congo today is to bring peace to the nation. Everyone is working towards this here in the area of the Great Lakes. The objective of my trip was to explain to the international community the stakes involved in the current conflict, the war and the aggression of which the Congolese people are victims.

In accordance with the Lusaka agreement, the belligerents in Congo have, from March 15 begun withdrawing their troops 15 km from the front lines. Are you satisfied that this process is working?

I believe that things are progressing well on all fronts on which we have information, yes. There are positive developments, and I'm under the impression that it will continue, because it seems that everyone is now seeking peace. I cannot, however, say that I am satisfied 100 per cent because the country is still under occupation: the Ugandan, Rwandan and Burundian forces, which are still present, shouldn't be there any more. But it's the begin-

When will they be leaving Congo?

The Zimbabweans, Angolans and Namibians were brought into the country on request following the invasion of our country. When this invasion comes to an end, when the enemy's military forces withdraw, the Zimbabweans, Namibians and the rest will return to their countries.

The authorities in Kigali and Bujumbura say they entered your country to protect their borders from the Interahamwe militias responsible for the 1994 genocide, as well as Burundian Hutu rebel groups operating from inside Congo. What security guarantees can you offer your neighbours that these groups will not be tolerated on Congo territory?

Congo did not create these security problems in Rwanda and Burundi. The security problems that exist in those countries are internal problems. The international community has a vital role to play - that of reassuring both the Rwandans and the people of Burundi. They must make them understand that it is not by occupying the Congo that they'll be able to resolve their own problems. Solutions to their problems must be found in their own countries. Even if we tried to co-



... Jos ... h Kabila of the DR Congo and President Olusegun Obasanjo at the State House, Abuja, ... ing the former's visit.

Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

What is more important is what we are going to do and build. At the moment, the social conditions here are catastrophic. The humanitarian situation is also catastrophic. It's these issues that require our attention and resources.

speeches that I make. The Congolese have had far too many speeches these last 40 days.

What is more important is what we are going to do and build. At the moment, the social conditions here are catastrophic. The humanitarian situation is also catastrophic. It's these issues that require our attention and resources.

Your leadership style is quite different from that of your father.

have lost nearly two million Congolese in this war. One cannot accept such things any more. The international community must insist on the withdrawal of all these foreign military forces.

You were thrust into the international limelight after your father's assassination. How would you define yourself - a politician, a soldier or a democrat?
Congolese citizen.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Indian opposition prepares attack

When the Indian parliament reconvenes on Monday after the Easter recess, the government is expecting a stormy

session. Before the recess, a corruption scandal involving secretly-taped conversations with top politicians and mili-

tary officials had sparked off angry and unruly behaviour, with the opposition making it impossible for parliament to function.

Equally rowdy scenes are expected this week.

Sensing a hint of defensiveness on the part of the government for the first time, the opposition parties intend to take maximum advantage of a chance to embarrass the government.

The sting operation by an Internet site had been profoundly humiliating for the ruling BJP and led to the loss of one of its ministers.

Almost simultaneously, a scandal involving rigging and manipulative practices on the Indian stock market made

front-page news and provided yet another demonstration of how corruption seems to pervade Indian public life.

The stock market crash, in which tens of thousands of ordinary Indian families lost their savings, happened despite the existence of two regulatory bodies designed to prevent precisely the kind of corrupt practices the stock-brokers had been found guilty of.

Then, most recently, a top customs official was arrested on charges of corruption.

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee knew that the opposition would be asking difficult questions about these scandals.

He told a rally in his constituency in the north Indian city of Lucknow that the government realized that corruption was a national disease that needed to be thoroughly debated before any solutions could emerge.

His remarks are clearly intended as a pre-emptive measure to mollify the opposition, but it is not likely to work.

The biggest opposition party - the Congress Party - has made it clear that it is on the warpath.

Its leader, Sonia Gandhi, boycotted an all-party meet-

ing called by the government to ensure the smooth functioning of parliament in this session.

In fact, Mrs Gandhi has been demanding Mr Vajpayee's resignation, saying that he has lost the moral right to govern India.

She is also incensed that the government at one point seemed ready to order the

view

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), to look into the allegations made by a maverick politician that she was corrupt.

Stormy sessions in parliament mean that the government will be struggling not just to pass important bills that have been pending for some time but also to pass the budget.

(AFP)

While *Fellow Nigerians* claims to be a survey of

nation is again ushered into a fresh vista of democracy under a former military ruler, General Olusegun Obasanjo. While Agbese gave a glowing testimony of president Obasanjo's political antecedents, he cautiously refrains from any predictive analytical projection that may sound prophetic. He comments that "it is morning yet on creation day" but observes that President Obasanjo's inaugural speech "reads like a coup speech with all the whistles - a litany of what had gone wrong with the country." In the afternoon of Obasanjo's leadership, Agbese may not be far from the truth - he may have really sounded like one of his political forebears in arm.

While *Fellow Nigerians* claims to be a survey of

Sudan talks collapse

Efforts to reconcile the Sudanese President, Omar Al-Bashir, and his former ally, the jailed Islamist politician, Hassan Al-Turabi, have failed.

Mr Al-Bashir was quoted as saying that the failure of Mr Al-Turabi's party, the PNC Popular National Congress, to rescind an accord signed with rebel groups who want to overthrow the government in Khartoum was the reason why mediation has

failed. Mr Al-Bashir said legal procedures to put Mr Al-Turabi on trial would continue.

Mr Al-Turabi helped General Al-Bashir seize power in a coup in 1989 and was long regarded as the government's chief Islamist ideologue.

But two years ago, the two men fell out after the president accused Mr Al-Turabi of undermining his authority.

Sharon's son meets Arafat

An Israeli newspaper has reported that, Omri Sharon, the son of the Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, held a surprise meeting with the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, last Wednesday.

The report, in the *Haaretz* newspaper, said the meeting between Omri Sharon and Mr

Arafat was the second such meeting in two weeks.

It said the meetings were evolving as a regular personal channel of communication between the two sides.

There has been no official confirmation of the meetings; but the report has provoked angry comments from Israeli officials and politicians.

Israel's attorney general Elyakim Rubinstein said sending a family member on diplomatic missions was not consistent with clean government. A member of the Israeli parliament, Ofir Pines, told Israeli radio if Mr Arafat were to send his wife for talks in Israel, everybody would explode with laughter

Congolese rebels block UN troops

In the first serious setback to the peace process in the Democratic Republic of Congo, rebels have blocked a planned deployment of United Nations peacekeeping troops to the town of Kisangani.

A UN plane carrying a first contingent of 120 Moroccan soldiers was refused permission to land while on its final approach to the town on Sunday.

The rebels, from the Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD) Goma group, are demanding the UN make a statement condemning ceasefire violations by government troops on the other side of the country.

UN military spokesman George Kilburn told the *BBC* there was evidence confirming that government troops had burnt villages and killed some of the inhabitants.

A 3,000-strong international force is scheduled to deploy in the coming months along Congo's frontline positions.

It will monitor and verify last month's 15km with-

drawal by the six armies and two major rebel groups involved in the war.

BBC correspondents said confrontation with the RCD is a real test of the UN's resolve. The rebels think the UN is biased in favour of the Kinshasa government.

The RCD feels it did not get enough praise for its prompt withdrawal from forward positions last month.

It also resents the fact that virtually all the peacekeepers come from former French colonies. France is not seen as an ally of Rwanda or the rebels.

UN force commander Mountago Diallo described the situation as very frustrating.

He said the RCD should not be making such demands of the UN mission. The UN had already verified the ceasefire violations, as agreed by all sides to the conflict.

Earlier, the UN had expressed its determination to go ahead with the deployment of the Moroccans, despite the Rwandan-backed rebel objections.

But rebel leader Adolphe Onusumba said he would regard any such move as a "declaration of war".

"They will not deploy in Kisangani before they publish a report on attacks within our territory," he said.

The Moroccan troops were diverted to Nairobi and eventually landed in Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic.

The Moroccan Government - which supported former leader Mobutu against the forces who have since taken over the DR Congo - is eager that its troops should not be forced to fight the rebels.

They are being deployed to protect the UN supply base in Kisangani.

Earlier, UN observers confirmed that they were looking into allegations that civilians had been raped and murdered by government troops in rebel-held areas of the Eastern Kasai province.

But UN envoy Kamel Morjane said a report on the alleged atrocities would not be published for several days.

He told the *BBC* it had not even been written yet.

Kisangani, the country's third-largest city, is 300km north of Eastern Kasai and has been the scene of fierce fighting between Ugandan and Rwandan forces backing separate rebel movements.

Further UN contingents are due to arrive over the next few days.

Mr Morjane said the chances for peace were better than ever, following two-and-a-half years of conflict.

UAE contains oil slick

The United Arab Emirates has said it has managed to contain an oil slick from a sunken tanker that had been threatening to cause a major environmental disaster for the Gulf state.

UAE Health Minister Hamad Abdul-Rahman al-Madfa broke several hours of silence to say that coastguard divers had managed to plug holes in the ship through which oil had been pouring.

He said environmentally safe chemicals were being used to treat the oil slick, which had begun to disperse.

The *Zainab*, a Georgian-flagged tanker, was carrying 1,300 tonnes of fuel oil when it sank off the port of Jebel Ali, south of Dubai, on Saturday.

All 11 crewmembers, including the Iraqi captain, were said to have been rescued.

A US Navy official said the vessel was smuggling Iraqi oil in violation of United Nations sanctions.

There were fears that the spill would reach the coastline and the desalination plants, which supply Dubai with fresh water.

An Emirates official said the *Zainab* was a very old Iraqi tanker that was travelling from Iraq to Pakistan.

Smugglers tend to use old

vessels that are poorly maintained, because they know they will lose them if they are caught.

US Commander Jeff Gradeck said the Multinational Interception Force that enforces sanctions against Iraq had intercepted the ship several days ago.

It is the 24th vessel to be impounded by the force so far this year.

He said it was on its way to a holding area in interna-

tional waters for sanction-busting ships when it ran into trouble.

Tankers carrying smuggled Iraqi oil routinely pass through the waters of the Emirates, one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world.

According to correspondents the fragile marine environment of the Gulf is regularly under attack from tankers which flush out their holds at sea.

Accident kills 14 in S Africa

Police in South Africa has said that at least 14 people died on Sunday after a head-on collision between a minibus taxi and a car in KwaZulu Natal province.

The crash comes amid a series of accidents during the Easter weekend.

The KwaZulu Natal transport minister, S'bu Ndebele, said that, in the past five days, at least 46 people have died in collisions involving public transportation alone.

Mr Ndebele said the problem was reaching what he called ridiculous proportions.

Seven die in Nairobi gunfights

Media reports from Kenya say seven people were killed on Friday in gunfights between police and armed criminals, bringing the number of deaths from similar incidents this month to 17.

A report by the French news agency, *AFP*, said the police stormed the basement car park of a supermarket in a northern suburb of the capital, Nairobi, and shot dead

four men who were allegedly planning a robbery.

A policeman and an unarmed security guard also died in the exchange of gunfire.

Another policeman was shot dead by armed car thieves in the west of the city.

There have been a series of violent shootings this month, and the police have been criticised for the deaths of several innocent people.

Masire meets Kabila, rebels

The OAU appointed inter-Congolese dialogue facilitator, Ketumile Masire is in Kinshasa, DRC for talks with the government, a statement from his office said.

According to the statement, the talks were a sequel to consultations he held with the armed opposition in the eastern part of the country recently. He met the Goma-

based *Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie* (RCD-Goma) officials and those of the Gbadolite-based *Mouvement de Liberation du Congo* (MLC) and also those of the Congolese Liberation Front (CLF) in Beni, northeastern DRC. "The talks were most useful and a definite step in the right direction," Masire said on Sunday.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

WORLD REPORT

Nato-led Stabilisation Force (S-For) troops in Bosnia have arrested a Bosnian Serb army commander, Dragan Obrenovic, wanted on genocide charges for the extermination of thousands of Muslims.

Obrenovic is expected to appear before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague during the next few days.

Bosnia genocide suspect arrested

Lieutenant Colonel Obrenovic was wanted under a sealed indictment by the ICTY for the "deaths, and for complicity in genocide, crimes against humanity, murder and torture", a NATO statement said.

The charges, among the most serious the tribunal can bring, are in connection with events surrounding the fall of

the town of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia which led to the worst massacres of the Bosnian war.

NATO Secretary-General Lord Robertson said each arrest of war crimes suspects made it easier to build a lasting peace in the Balkans.

"Let today's arrest serve as a warning to those with guilty consciences," he said.

"It is time to turn yourself in."

A BBC correspondent in Sarajevo said Colonel Obrenovic was bundled into a car by S-For troops in plain clothes near Zvornik, north-eastern Bosnia, on Sunday.

His lawyer, Krstan Simic, told Bosnian Serb *Republic Radio-TV* that he was shocked by the arrest on Easter day, "this most important of Christian holidays".

In July 1995, Colonel Obrenovic was chief of staff of the Bosnian Serb army brigade besieging Srebrenica.

That month, Srebrenica - proclaimed a safe haven under the protection of Dutch UN peacekeepers - fell to Serb forces.

Some 7,000 Muslims are believed to have been ex-

ecuted in the weeks that followed in what has been described as the worst single atrocity in Europe since World War II.

United Nations war crimes prosecutor Carla del Ponte has criticised S-For for not doing more to apprehend suspects.

Since June 1997, S-For has arrested and transferred to The Hague 21 suspects.

One of Colonel Obrenovic's fellow officers at the time, General Radislav Krstic, is currently on trial there on charges of genocide. He is the highest ranking Bosnian Serb to go in the dock.

Three Bosnian Serb war crimes suspects have been killed in S-For snatch operations.

Venezuela welcomes Jiang

The Chinese President Jiang Zheming has received a warm welcome in Venezuela, the last leg of his tour of six Latin American countries.

The President of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez, has steered the country towards closer ties with China — part of what analysts regard as a foreign policy strategy of realigning away from dominant US influence.

President Chavez praised China, saying it represented what he called the 'self determination of nations.' During his visit, President Jiang is likely to seek Venezuela's support in rebuffing US moves to censure China's human rights record at the Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

Kurds clash with Turkish army

A long lull in the conflict in Turkey between the army and Kurdish rebels has ended after a battle that left fourteen people dead.

Troops and helicopters on Sunday combed Bingol province in the south-east of the country where five soldiers were killed by land mines believed to have been laid by guerrillas of the Kurdistan Workers Party — the PKK.

The authorities said nine rebels had also been killed.

Such clashes used to be commonplace before the intensity of the conflict diminished dramatically with the capture of the PKK leader, Abdullah Ocalan. However, the BBC reported that the military and much of the political establishment dismissed the PKK's ceasefire as a sham designed to save Mr Ocalan from possible execution.

Brazil jail siege ends as inmates kill leaders

A four-day standoff at a prison in western Brazil has ended after protesting inmates turned on their own ringleaders.

Inmates at Carumbe prison in the remote city of Cuiaba had been holding about 150 people hostage - mostly women and children who were visiting imprisoned family members.

On Sunday, at least five of leaders of the protest were killed by their fellow prisoners, apparently because they wanted to prolong the siege until they could make a statement on television.

Meanwhile, police are still looking for a group of inmates who broke out of jail in Sao Paulo in a separate incident on Saturday.

A total of 123 prisoners escaped when about 15 heavily armed men stormed the Pinheiros jail. About a dozen of the inmates have since been recaptured.

The latest prison rebellions follow the publication of a United Nations report which concludes that ill-treatment and torture are wide-

spread and systematic in Brazil's overcrowded jails.

Riots are a frequent occurrence, as are breakouts.

Inmates at the Carumbe prison had demanded the dismissal of the warden, whom they accused of ill-treatment and corruption, as well as a judicial review of their cases and more hygienic conditions.

Authorities cut off electricity, food and water to the prison to try to end the standoff.

Negotiations were apparently going well, until the leaders of the rebellion decided to hold out until Sunday so that they could read out a statement on television.

"Early the next morning, they were killed by inmates outraged at the situation since their families were at risk", police Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Morales said.

He said the police were considering bringing charges against the reporter and television programme that had agreed to allow the ringleaders to read their statement.

Sao Paulo's Security Secretary, Marco Vinicio

Petrelhuzi, said the mass escape from Pinheiros jail was aided by the "incompetence or collaboration" of prison officials.

He said it was "impossible that 15 heavily armed men raid a prison and nobody manages to stop them."

Calm returns to Cincinnati

Tensions appear to have eased in the American city of Cincinnati following the shooting of a black youth earlier in the week and an incident at his funeral on Saturday.

The city's mayor took advantage of the lull to delay the start of a fourth night of curfew until 2300 local time (0300 GMT) in deference to Easter churchgoers.

But Saturday's incident, an apparently unprovoked police attack on funeral marchers, generated fresh criticism from black leaders.

Kweisi Mfume, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, told *Fox News* that the police had no reason to open fire and that

some officers were "distraught" at what their colleagues had done.

"There is something woefully wrong with this police department - even police officers say that," he said.

The authorities have been trying to prevent a repeat of rioting sparked by the police shooting of 19-year-old Timothy Thomas on 7 April.

A heavy police presence and rainstorms kept people off the streets on Saturday night, although 187 arrests were reported.

"It was almost a boring night for us," Police Chief Thomas Streicher told the *Associated Press*.

Timothy Thomas' funeral took place amid emotional scenes earlier in the day.

Mourners streamed past the coffin bearing his body as the service was relayed on loudspeakers to hundreds of people who could not get into the crowded church.

Several black leaders, including Mr Mfume and radical New Black Panther Party leader, Malik Shabazz, were present.

It was followed by a peaceful march through the city, although at one point a

tense stand-off developed involving police and protestors.

Police fired crowd control rounds - known as beanbags - injuring four people including a seven-year-old black girl and her 11-year-old cousin.

Some people staged a sit-down protest, but were persuaded to give up after negotiations with a senior black police officer.

The shooting of Thomas sparked three days of riots, prompting the city's authorities to impose the curfew.

Thomas was unarmed, but running from Officer Steve Roach when he was shot.

Officer Roach has said he thought Thomas was reaching for a weapon.

The police officers' union has hit back at accusations made against their members, condemning them as "inflammatory, racist and unfair".

Fifteen black men have been killed by the police in Cincinnati in recent years.

But union president Keith Fangman said that 12 of them had involved suspects who confronted police with deadly weapons.

Dissident journalists air on new channel

Journalists who left Russia's only independent nationwide television network when it was taken over by creditors have begun broadcasting on another channel.

Broadcasters who left NTV on Saturday put out news bulletins on the smaller TNT channel on Sunday, and said they would broadcast the influential current affairs programme *Itogi* as well.

About 40 journalists resigned from NTV after its premises were taken over and state-dominated gas giant Gazprom demanded that they pledge their loyalty to the new management.

The new owners insist they will maintain the political independence of the station - seen by many as Russia's most important independent media outlet.

The departure of many of the station's most respected journalists may scupper a white-knight investment bid led by CNN founder Ted Turner, who said he would only buy into NTV if its editorial team remained intact.

But a Russian magnate, Boris Berezovsky, has offered his TV-6 channel to the

dissident NTV journalists. Yevgeny Kiselyov, former editor-in-chief of NTV, has accepted a position as acting director of TV-6, which has a broader reach than TNT.

He described the takeover of NTV by security forces loyal to Gazprom as an "illegitimate use of force".

"It's a betrayal by insolent, cynical, cowardly people. They've ruined NTV, which was my home," Mr Kiselyov said.

The dissident journalists claim the Kremlin is behind the takeover.

The station has broadcast rare critical coverage of the war in Chechnya, as well as reporting corruption scandals and news about the deterioration in living standards.

Gazprom says it is simply trying to recoup the company's bad debts.

Newly-installed NTV director Boris Jordan - an American investment banker - said: "There are no limitations of any kind on editorial staff."

But NTV's Sunday broadcasts made no mention of the dispute, while TNT included an item about it after

the main international news.

The dispute has generated public support for NTV's journalists, prompting thousands to take to the streets of Moscow and St Petersburg.

The first real sign of the impact of the takeover seizure of NTV's airwaves came on Saturday morning, when anchor Andrei Norkin was cut off in mid-sentence as he attempted to explain what had happened.

A tired-looking Mr Norkin presented the news bulletin on TNT on Sunday.

TNT is a small cable TV station run by the original owner of NTV, Vladimir Gusinsky, now in self-imposed exile in Spain and fighting extradition to Russia.

The dissident journalists have been protesting since Gazprom, a major shareholder and creditor, voted out the management at a board meeting on 3 April.

On Friday, staff appealed to President Vladimir Putin to intervene to save the station.

Mr Putin replied that, while he was against establishing state control over the channel, he could not take sides in the dispute.



Russian TNT employees preparing programme. (AFP)



Ministry of Women Affairs and Youth Development office complex built by Gov. Abubakar Hashidu administration.

PHOTO FAIR

Gombe State under the leadership of Alhaji Abu Habu Hashidu, the first civilian/executive governor of the state has recorded tremendous success in various sectors. Within about two years of existence, the Hashidu administration has wonderfully touched the life of the citizens of Gombe State as depicted by this pictorial focus



Rural water supply project in Gomo, reactivated by Abubakar Hashidu Administration.



Wuro-Dole Water Scheme initiated and completed by Abubakar Hashidu administration.



Wuro-Dole Rural Electrification project initiated by Hashidu's administration.



The deputy governor's office under construction in Gombe, one of the projects embarked upon this year.



Some of the sewing machines distributed to women groups in Gombe under the Poverty Alleviation Programme.



General Hospital, Kaltungo, rehabilitated by Governor Abubakar Hashidu



Kaltingo-Boh-Lalaipodo road constructed by Gov. Abubakar Hashidu administration



Manto Tomatoes and Juice Processing Company Plant in Gomo, reactivated by Gov. Hashidu's administration. Inset: Sample of the canned tomatoes produced at Manto.



Gombe State legislators' quarters initiated and completed by Gov. Abubakar Hashidu Administration.

BUSINESS DAY

N1.08 trillion Upstream Investments: Obaseki decries low indigenous participation

About 8.5 billion US dollars (N1.08 trillion) will be invested in the upstream sub-sector of the Nigerian oil industry this year, the Group Managing Director, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Jackson Gaius-Obaseki has disclosed.

According to him, the funds include cash calls and joint venture arrangements. Foreign Financial Institutions, the NNPC boss said will provide the bulk of the funds, adding that there is virtually no input from the Nigerian Financial Institutions.

Obaseki who was giving a keynote address at the opening session of the first NNPC/Chevron local content development fair in Lagos, stressed the need for Nigerian institutions to re-appraise the industry and avail themselves of the available opportunities in the business.

From Rakiya A. Mohammad, in Lagos

He noted that in recent times Nigerian hydro-carbon business have expanded on the average over \$3 billion annually of which less than

MANAGEMENT

public that the above named registration under Part C of the

ingly becoming of serious concern not only to government and NNPC but to the citizens of this country whose expectations of the industry have generally not been met."

He disclosed that the Nigerian Vision 2010, which has been endorsed by the present administration, seeks to achieve at least 50

percent Nigerian content by 2010.

Obaseki identified lack of resources as a major limitation to indigenous participation, and urged small single-owner companies to pull resources together through strategic alliances in order to be competitive in the industry.

In his remarks, Chairman and Managing Director, Chevron Nigeria Limited, Mr. Raymond Wilcox

observed that the good health of Nigeria's economy can be significantly enhanced if the oil and gas industry support and encourage the growth of know how and expertise within the country.

"For us at Chevron, the Local Content Development Policy is consistent with our business objectives that identifies with the aspirations of our host environment", Mr. Wilcox asserted, expressing pleasure that the NNPC had

demonstrated the will to reinvent the Nigerian oil industry by encouraging true indigenous participation in the production and services sector.

According to the Chevron MD, the fair amongst others, "will serve as a forum for robust interaction on local content development issues by joint venture partners, top government officials and contracting companies.

Rivers State set to build refinery

The Rivers State government will have its own refinery as soon as the Federal Government deregulates the downstream sector of the oil industry.

The Rivers State Governor, Dr. Peter Odili, told members of the Presidential Technical Campaign Committee on the proposed reforms in the oil sector in Port Harcourt that the state government was behind the policy of deregulation since

it was designed to ensure economic growth.

"Opening up of the downstream sector of the oil industry was necessary and remains the only option to shore up the economy," he declared.

According to him, Rivers State will take advantage of the initiative and build its own refinery in view of its abundant oil deposits to empower its people economically.

Odili was reported as saying that opening up of the sector would certainly be at-

tractive and beneficial to the state government.

Odili expressed optimism that if the sector was fully liberalised, it would bring about fair competition which he commended the federal Government for setting up the enlightenment campaign to educate Nigerians on the proposed deregulation policy.

The Governor, however, advised the Federal government to rehabilitate the refineries so that they could operate at full capacity before embarking on the re-

form of the downstream sector of oil industry.



Peter Odili, Rivers State Governor.

NUPENG backs deregulation

Secretary-General of the National Union of Petroleum and Gas Workers, NUPENG, Comrade Joseph Akinlaja, declared that deregulation, not backed by price increase in the petroleum sector, is the only solution to the crisis in the sector.

Comrade Akinlaja, who spoke exclusively with *Business Day* in Lagos at the NNPC depot, shortly after the inauguration of the NUPENG wing of Surface Tank Kerosene Dealers (SUTAKED) said the union is stoutly in support of competition and availability of fuel, but not necessarily price increase.

"If government allows people to bring in fuel, the price will go up, but will stabilize. To ensure that the price does not rise beyond the reach of the ordinary people, there should be a price control body comprising of the stakeholders who will determine the price, the NUPENG scribe advised.

He explained that the NNPC would continue to ma-

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, in Lagos

nipulate the supply of Petroleum in order to force up prices in the black market so long as it continues to monopolise the industry.

Earlier, Chairman of SUTAKED, Comrade Duro Dada, in his welcome address, said kerosene dealers had come together to seek solutions to common problem facing them.

Comrade Dada noted that the emergence of SUTAKED became inevitable due to the role it plays in the distribution and marketing of natural gas and petroleum products.

He explained that other objectives of SUTAKED include the provision of employment to young secondary school leavers and tertiary institution graduates, protection of members working and making kerosene available where filling station do not exist at all.

"It is important to note that with NUPENG umbrella over

SUTAKED, continuous checking of the source of procurement of kerosene contamination." He assured.

Comrade Akinlaja said the inauguration of SUTAKED is in line with the implementation of the provision of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Official Gazette Number 11 of February 12, 1996 on Trade Union Amendment Decree No. 4 of 1996 which vested on NUPENG the jurisdiction of organising the retail and distribution of petroleum products in order to sanitise the system.



President Obasanjo

NPA plans seminar on human relations

The Management of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) has concluded arrangements to organise a seminar aimed at re-orienting their security personnel and confidential secretaries on how to improve their human relations powers.

It was reliably gathered that the seminar becomes imperative as it was targeted at these officers because they serves as gateway between the authority and the public as well as the

From Tokunbo Oloke, in Lagos

first contact to the visitors coming to the Ports for the first time.

Furthermore, it was also gathered that this development might not be unconnected with the recent allegations by various people asking NPA to re-groom its security workforce to suit the modern days.

Some of the allegations according to the source include flogging visitors with horse-

whips, inflicting injuries and assault on people coming to the port to do business. The source however informed that during seminar these officers would be educated on how to relate with visitors and how to comport themselves when provocation arises.

At the end of the seminar, the sources said, their security officers and other relevant officers would have assimilated a lot which is capable of making them to stand the test of time

NPA MD warns against divulging official secrets

The Managing Director of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Malam Bello Gwandu has strongly warned his officers to desist from leaking classified information meant only for the Authority to the public.

This warning was contained in a memo titled "Application of full disciplinary measures for disregard of official secret," sent to heads of department.

According to him, "we have observed with dissatisfaction the lack of regard to official secret exhibited by some of our personnel through their custody, contrary to rules governing the conduct of civil servants."

Gwandu observed that it has become a common occurrence for private persons to have access to official documents of various classifications,

From Tokunbo Oloke, in Lagos

especially those relating to contract appraisals, adding that relevant regulations guarding the behaviours of public servants have provided severe disciplinary penalties for such offences. The Managing Director however stressed that the management would henceforth hold any custodian of leaked

documents responsible for such acts through the full application of appropriate disciplinary measures.

Meanwhile, Gwandu also frowned at the situation whereby officers and staff would continue to solicit the assistance of highly placed individuals in the society to influence them to accede to their request such as in the area of postings, promotion and sponsorship.

Agip posts N1bn profit

Agip Nigeria Plc has announced a profit after tax of over one billion naira (N1bn) for the year ended December 31, 2000.

This shows an increase of 71.5 per cent over N571,992 million achieved during the previous year.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company, Otunba Adekunle Ojora who disclosed this in a statement at the 41st Annual General Meeting of shareholders of the company in Lagos said the company recorded a turnover of N12.610 billion for the year under review, representing an increase of 21.8 per cent when compared to N10.352 billion achieved during the previous year.

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, in Lagos

Otunba Ojora expressed pleasure that last year's record was the best result ever recorded by the company since its establishment over four decades ago.

The Chairman attributed what he described as the "excellent result" largely to the completion of the new fuel handling depot which provided the opportunity for the company to be more dynamic in sales and less depend on third party facilities to satisfy the needs of their numerous customers.

He added that the cost reduction approach and the prudent management of resources also contributed to the company's success.



NEPA

NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY PRESS BRIEFING

RESUSCITATION OF POWER, STEEL, ALUMINIUM

By Minister of Power And Steel,
DR. OLUSEGUN AGAGU
On Thursday, 22nd March, 2001

GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS.

1. I assumed the leadership of the Ministry of Power and Steel on the 7th of June, 2000, to continue the good work of my predecessor towards the revamping of the Power, Steel and Aluminium Sectors of the economy of our great nation. You will all agree with me, that as a result of decades of neglect the Power, Steel and Aluminium Sectors suffered before the advent of this administration a great challenge was thrown to the leadership of the Ministry of Power and Steel under my humble self and that of my Minister of State, Alhaji Mohammed Danjuna Goje.

2. Working with our Directors in the Ministry and the Executives of our parastatals, strategies were put in place of stem the ugly trend. So far, we can boldly say that encouraging results, details of which will be elaborated on in the course of this briefing are being achieved. We are still far from glory land.

3. At this juncture, I want to do a sector-by-sector analysis of our strategies, as well as the problems and prospects for the emergence of a dynamic and sustainable power, steel and aluminium sectors that will become the pride of every Nigerian as well as a pivot for the rapid socio-economic, technological and industrial development of our dear nation.

4. POWERSECTOR

In May 1999, the power supply system in the country was in a very terrible state of disrepair and neglect. The generation availability was down to 16000MW from the installed 5876MW which was far below the estimated national demand of about 32000MW. Only 19 out of a total of 79 generating units were in operation. Radial transmission lines that were vulnerable, old and which did not cover most parts of the country characterized the National grid. Many power transformers and circuit breakers have not been maintained for years and were overloaded, insufficient and broke down regularly. Overloaded distribution transformers, unmaintained lines, irregular billing with erroneous or arbitrarily estimated bills and illegal connections characterized the distribution and marketing system.

4.1 This abysmally poor state of affairs in the power sector was due to many reasons that include the following:

- Capacity loss suffered by the system due to poor maintenance and overhaul schedules of the generating plants for over the last 15 years.
- Prolonged neglect and non-maintenance of the transmission lines, transmission sub-stations, distribution lines and the distribution substations.
- No new power plants were installed since 1990 and no new 330KV and 132KV transmission lines were constructed since 1981.
- Seasonal fluctuations in the water levels in the lakes of the hydro stations at Kainji, Jebba and Shiroro.
- General indiscipline and corruption by some officials of NEPA.

4.2 We have since embarked upon a rehabilitation programme which has been progressing systematically. NEPA now has 26 out of the 79 generating units working as against 17 and many more are expected to be put into operation before the end of the year. The available capacity is now 25800MW. A new generation peak of 2600.5MW was achieved in January 2001 as against 2450MW hitherto. However, due to the low level of water in the lakes and non-completion of the rehabilitation of some of the thermal power plants the average actual generation has dropped to about 21000MW. The situation will likely remain like this until about July this year when water levels in our dams will begin to be higher and the rehabilitation and construction of new thermal power plants are being completed.

4.3 In our short-term programme, 4000MW of power will be generated by the end of the year 2001. This short-term programme includes emergency power plants (EPP), rehabilitation of existing power stations as well as reinforcement and expansion of the existing distribution network for effective service delivery.

Some of the generation projects in the short term plan are as follows:

I Rehabilitation of power stations			
Shiroro	4G1	(150MW)	by December 2001
Afam	GT10	(15MW)	by April 2001
	GT17	(70MW)	by March 2001
	GT18	(70MW)	by November 2001
Delta (Ughelli)	GT15	(100MW)	by March 2001
	GT18	(100MW)	by June 2001
	GT19	(100MW)	by October 2001
	GT20	(100MW)	by August 2001
Kainji	G7	(80MW)	by October 2001
	G8	(80MW)	by October 2001

Sapele Egbin	G11	(80MW)	by October 2001
	GT02	(70MW)	by May 2001
	ST04	(220MW)	by Nov 2001
Ijora	ST06	(220MW)	by Dec 2001
	GT04	(15MW)	by August 2001
	GT05	(15MW)	by August 2001

Total available power from the rehabilitation exercise will be 1485MW.

ii. The following new plants are to be installed:

- Afam 2x 138MW (276MW) by Dec 2001
- Delta 6x 25MW (150MW) by Dec 2001

Total available power from the new plants will be 426MW.

iii. The following emergency power plants (EPP) are being constructed:

- Enron Power projects 90MW by April 2001
- 90MW by June 2001
- 90MW by August 2001
- Abuja Captive Power Plant 30MW by May 2001

Total available power from EPP will be 300MW

Therefore, the total expected additional power by the end of this year is 2211MW which when added to the present capacity will give more than our 4000MW target. With an estimated current demand (though suppressed) put at about 3,400MW, the incessant load shedding that was prevalent and which we still experience now should be over.

4.4 Efforts are also being put in place to ensure that the quantum of power to be generated will be effectively transmitted and distributed. Towards this end, about 370 substations are being reinforced with installation of higher rated transformers. More than 5000 new distribution transformers will also be installed before the end of 2001.

4.5 Projects in the medium to long term programme have also been designed which will make for a progressive increase in power generation and improvement in the integrity of our transmission, distribution and marketing system:

i. The Rehabilitation Operation and Transfer Programme

At least two of our thermal power plants (Afam and Sapele) will be fully refurbished through the ROT programme. More than 1000MW of power is expected from this initial programme.

ii. Independent Power Producers (IPP)

2000MW of installed power is expected by December 2003 from our IPPs which include Joint Venture Oil Companies and other renowned power producers.

iii. NEPA Privatisation

Generation and Distribution operations of NEPA are to be privatised by December, 2003

iv. Transmission Lines and Substations

2300 Transmission line projects are at various stages of implementation. When completed, identified transmission bottlenecks would be eliminated and there would be effective delivery of the increased power generated from the stations.

4.6 All told, efforts being made by this Administration to improve and stabilize the power supply in this country is on course. Our appeal is that our compatriots should bear with us with some understanding that ours is an inherited problem, which is being attacked squarely. We should all realise too that most of the rehabilitation and construction works that are being carried out require completion periods that are between 12 and 24 months after full financial commitments have been made.

5. THE NATIONWIDE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMME

The nationwide rural electrification programme (NREP) is aimed at connecting all Local Government Headquarters (LGHQ) and some other strategic and important towns and villages to the national grid. This is with a view to improving the quality of life of the rural populace. The programme is therefore crucial to the overall development of the country in general and particularly that of the rural areas.

5.1 By May, 1999, there were 846 uncompleted ongoing rural electrification projects nationwide on the programme. Some of these have been

the state's large livestock population as a major resource base.

In his speech at the occasion, the state Commissioner for Agriculture and Animal Resources, Alhaji Baba Bukar said vaccination programmes, specifically targeted "Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP)" ears. Since inception of the rification projects have been yearly.

5.2 The state's large livestock population as a major resource base. In his speech at the occasion, the state Commissioner for Agriculture and Animal Resources, Alhaji Baba Bukar said vaccination programmes, specifically targeted "Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP)" ears. Since inception of the rification projects have been yearly.

5.3 Today, out of the existing 774 Local Government Headquarters in the Country, 575 are already connected to the National Grid while work is going on in 98 others. It is expected that the remaining 101 Local Government Headquarters, will be connected to the grid within the next two years at a cost of about N20 billion. The programme will also cover towns and villages with strategic and economic importance. In fact, the intention of Mr. President in the area of rural electrification, which is one of the basic DEMOCRACY DIVIDENDS, is to electrify the entire country within the shortest possible time. He has already asked me to start thinking in that line including possible time frame work for achieving this laudable objective.

5.4 **CONSTRAINTS AND PROBLEMS**
At the inception of this administration, the two major constraints to the successful execution of the programme were; inadequate funding and lack of materials/equipment to issue to contractors as the works progressed. These have been adequately taken care of with timely allocation and release of funds by the Federal Government. Two other problems however, still persist namely:

5.4 LACK OF BULK POWER SUPPLY SOURCE:

Most of the remaining towns yet to be connected to the national grid (and indeed some of the ongoing ones) are very far from the nearest NEPA connection point. Connecting additional towns/villages to the grid without improving the bulk power supply will therefore lead to greater instability of the power supply system. Towards this end, a number of 132KV transmission lines and associated 132KV substations were recently awarded, and plans are on to commit other bulk power supply projects. For remote communities, possibilities of using solar, wind energy or other sources of renewable energy to provide their electricity needs are being considered.

5.4 VANDALISATION

The Ministry has tried to fight the menace of vandalism by directly procuring off-shore electrical materials. Such precautions will however be effective only when all other executing agencies such as States and LGAs adopt the same approach. The bill being proposed by the National Assembly to legislate against the sale of high tension and other major power transmission and distribution materials in local electrical shops as a way to curb vandalism will also help.

5.4 BILATERAL COOPERATION WITH FRIENDLY COUNTRIES

With the return to civil administration, a number of donor countries have taken interest in assisting Nigeria in rural electrification. The Japanese Government has recently provided a grant-in-aid of JY1.2 billion for the first Phase of their programme to electrify two LGHQ towns of Awe and Keana in Nassarawa State. Phase 2 of the programme will provide electricity to Bogoro in Bauchi State and Kalsingi in Gombe State, while Phase III of the programme will provide electricity to Damasak in Borno State. Bilateral cooperation with friendly countries in the areas of funding of rural electrification construction projects, supply of offshore materials/equipment and training of staff would be explored further in order to enhance progress on the programme.

5.4 COOPERATION WITH STATE GOVERNMENTS

A number of State Governments are pursuing vigorous rural electrification programmes. The Federal Government cooperates with the State Governments for enhanced performance in the rural electrification programme and to guide against duplication of efforts. In some areas however, the communities that are direct beneficiaries of the programme do not cooperate with the contractors. They make unnecessary demands from the contractors, thereby forcing the contractors to abandon the site. We are

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using this medium to appeal to all that are concerned with this programme to give government the maximum cooperation in our bid to bring light into the lives of our people in the rural areas.

5.7 STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCED PERFORMANCE

The interest shown by the present administration and the successes achieved so far in the rural areas have resulted in an increase in the number of requests being received from the communities, local and state governments. In order to enhance performance, the following strategies have been evolved:

- (i) consultants have been appointed to reinforce NEPA Rural Electrification Department's duties on the programme in each of the six geo-political zones;
- (ii) payments of 25% mobilization are now being considered and paid to contractors who apply on presentation of Bank Guarantee;
- (iii) in view of limited funds, projects are now prioritised so as to ensure that they are completed within specified period of time

6. STEEL SECTOR

6.1. At the inception of this administration in May 1999, the entire steel sector of the country was practically dead. The Delta Steel Plant and the Inland Rolling Mills at Jos, Katsina and Oshogbo that were completed and commissioned in 1983 had run aground and operations stopped since 1997. Workers' salaries were unpaid for as many as 24 months in most of the companies. Their machinery and plant has degenerated due to inadequate maintenance and lack of use. As a result, all the mills required refurbishing.

6.2 The construction of Ajaokuta Steel Project, which is the largest single investment of government in any one place in Nigeria, had suffered so many hiccups that activities finally ceased in 1996 due to the withdrawal of the Russians for non-payment of their outstanding debts without completing the plant. Like Delta Steel Company, workers' salaries were in arrears of about 6 months.

6.3 Some of the problems identified with these projects were:

- i. Insufficient provision of working capital for the completed mills;
- ii. improper management of resources;
- iii. inadequate maintenance;
- iv. untimely release of funds to settle contractors' liability leading to Project abandonment.

6.4 In August 1999, an Inter-Ministerial Committee was set up by Mr. President to assess the steel sector of the country in order to:

- i. Determine the relevance of the sector to the economy;
- ii. examine all steel projects completed or in progress in the country, and estimate the cost of reactivation, rehabilitation, and completion;
- iii. examine all support services that may be required for a successful take off of the steel sector;
- iv. consider sources and availability of raw materials for the sector;
- v. examine the cost and financial requirements and suggest financial arrangements;
- vi. examine the privatisation and commercialization programme for the steel sector, and
- vii. recommend ways of moving the sector forward.

6.5 Following the completion of the assignments by the Committee, my Ministry drew up its plan for the resuscitation of the steel sector as follows:

- i. A technical audit of the Ajaokuta Steel Project should be undertaken to determine the scope of the remaining works to complete the 1st Phase of the project, and the rehabilitation works that are required for the uncompleted units;
- ii. immediate rehabilitation and operation of Delta Steel Plant be carried out in conjunction with Joint Venture Partners and thereby prepare it for privatisation; meanwhile before Delta Steel Plant would be in a position to supply the rolling mills with their raw material which is billet, the rolling mills would be rehabilitated and run with imported billets provided by steel merchants;
- iii. the Itakpe Mining Project would be completed and mining activities increased by the acquisition of new mining equipment;
- iv. activities at the National Steel Raw Materials Exploration Agency, Kaduna would be stepped up to locate more sources of raw materials for the steel industry;
- v. the National Metallurgical Development Centre, Jos would be further equipped to carry out its research activities, whilst efforts would be concentrated at completing the workshops at the permanent site of the Metallurgical Training Institute, Onitsha so that the Institute could relocate to its permanent site.

6.6 ACHIEVEMENTS

All outstanding salary arrears of workers have been paid and workers now enjoy regular payment of salary.

ii. Ajaokuta Steel Plant Project

- (a) The technical audit/evaluation of the plant has been completed and the report accepted after careful study by our experts and consultants. So far a sum of \$4.14 billion has been committed to the project. The report estimated that a further sum of \$460 million is required to complete the 1st phase of the plant for the production of 1.3 million tonnes per annum of liquid steel. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in 24 months. After due consideration, the President has approved that my ministry should negotiate with the Russian company, Tyahzpromexport terms of agreement for the completion of the 1st Phase of the project. The agreement is expected to be formalised next month, April 2001.
- (b) A Joint Venture Agreement for the operation of the repair shops complex has been negotiated and will be signed at the end of this month. When in operation the Joint-Venture will carry out manufacture and repairs for other industries, like the cement companies, oil companies, NEPA, etc. It is also planned that a galvanizing plant will be installed in the complex to produce components for the erection of steel pylon/towers such as those used in electricity transmission lines and telecommunication masts.
- (c) The reactivation of the Light Section Mill has started, it should be completed in May 2001 to commence operations with imported billets provided by steel merchants.

iii. DELTA STEEL PLANT

A joint venture agreement has been signed with Messrs Voest Alpine Industrial Services and Osaka Steel Nig. Ltd for the rehabilitation and operation of the Delta Steel Plant in December 2000. The plant will be rehabilitated at a cost of \$100 million. The Federal Government will contribute \$45 million while the partners will provide an Austrian Loan of \$55 million. The Joint Venture Partners will also provide additional \$40million as operating capital. The Agreement is for a 7-year period. The Joint Venture Partners have sent staff to the site to commence the rehabilitation of the rolling mills.

iv. ROLLING MILLS

- a. As result of consultations with stakeholders in the steel sector, especially steel merchants and other major consumers, my ministry has encouraged them to participate in the on-going efforts at revamping the rolling mills. They have entered into co-operation agreements with the Rolling Mills whereby the merchants now import billets for conversion at the mills rather than importing finished steel products. This will create thousands of jobs for Nigerians.
- b. Funds have been provided for the rehabilitation of the rolling mills and orders placed for both local and imported spare parts. The mills are to go into production from April 2001. The Katsina Steel Rolling Mills, for example, is due to receive some billets this month and will commence operation by April 19, 2001.

v. Itakpe Mining Project

- (a) Work is continuing on the 4th Line beneficiation plant and the super concentrate beneficiation line. The plant erection is to be completed by 1st Quarter 2002.
- (b) The processes for the acquisition of New Mining Equipment have been completed and others will be placed in April 2001 for them. It is expected that the equipment will be delivered by the 3rd quarter of 2001.

vi. National Steel Raw Materials Exploration Agency

More vigorous activities are being carried out by the Agency following the rehabilitation of its drilling rigs and equipment. Various geological activities were carried out in 2000 such as Topographic survey of Udulehi, Opening of pits at Ozanagogo Clay Deposit, Geological reconnaissance of Jafu and Udulehi, Engineering geological work at Ozanagogo, Ukwu-Nzu and Ilushi and the detailed geophysical profiling at Nafada-Lamja.

(b) Pre-mining operation at Obi-Lafia coking coal deposit was started. The consultants ROE of Germany carried out an assessment and prepared bills of quantities for the project. Contractors will be appointed in due course for the sinking of the mining shaft.

vii. National Metallurgical Development Centre

- (a). The Centre acquired and installed a hammer mill, and an air float separator to complete the mineral beneficiation plant in year 2000. Also the XRF equipment used for analysis that has been dormant for years was reactivated and commissioned.
- (b). The Centre carried out various tests on new deposit of fire clay.

viii. Metallurgical Training Institute

During the year 2000, the Institute completed the relocation of plant and equipment from the temporary site to the permanent site. 3 more hostel blocks, 5 staff houses were completed also within the year.

6.7 Future Plan For The Steel Sector

We have succeeded so far laying good foundation for the steel sector in the last eighteen months or so. We hope to consolidate on this by:

- i. Ensuring the timely completion of the reactivation of Delta Steel plant;
- ii. Ensuring that the Ajaokuta Steel Plant is completed and expanded to the 2.6 million tonnes/year steel production. Several facilities within the 1st Phase of the Ajaokuta Steel Project were designed for the 2.6 million tonnes/year phase such as the raw material preparation plant and the steel melting shop. Consultants are to be appointed to carry out studies and recommend the appropriate technological process to be adopted for this 2nd Phase of the project and prepare detailed documents to enable competitive bidding for the project;
- iii. Increasing exploration activities for iron ore, coking coal and other raw materials;
- iv. Ensuring the completion of the 4th Line Beneficiation Line of Itakpe Mining Project by 2002.
- v. Continuing the rehabilitation of the Inland Rolling Mills to achieve over 5,000 mt/month production in 2001.

7.0 ALUMINIUM SMELTER COMPANY (ALSCON)

7.1 Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, you may be aware that the Aluminium Smelter Company of Nigeria (ALSCON) which commenced production in October, 1997 had been shut down since June, 1999 and most of the staff sent on compulsory leave. Since then the Company has been on preservation mode to put the facilities in good shape. The closure of the company was as a result of unbearable operational deficit resulting from the non-completion of key facilities, such as the dredging of Imo River to provide maritime access, low capacity utilization because only one of the two pot-lines was installed and non-completion of the Green Mill. All of these led to extremely high cost of production.

7.2 Reactivation of ALSCON

In order not to jeopardize the enormous government investment of about US\$2.5 billion on the project and to realize government's objectives for setting up the plant which include the provision of thousands of job opportunities for our people and exportation of natural gas in embodied form, my Ministry embarked on a series of discussions with the company's shareholders to agree on the best approach for reactivation and sustainable operations. During these discussions held in the last quarter of the year 2000, Reynolds/ALCOA of America amicably disengaged from the Joint Venture arrangement as a 10 per cent shareholder, Technical Service Provider and Metal Off-taker. Forrester AG of Germany, holders of 20 per cent shareholding and the Nigerian Government have since then braced up for the new dispensation.

7.3 Following the withdrawal of Reynolds/ALCOA from ALSCON, the Federal Government and Forrester signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the 25th of October, 2000. This MOU which emphasizes the new concept and orientation put in place by the Obasanjo Administration essentially aims to ensure that:

- i) the sum of USD150 Million provided by the government in the year 2000 budget, and outstanding foreign equity contribution of approximately USD26 million (totaling USD126million) is used towards the completion of the plant;
- ii) the plant is completed within four years from funds generated from production and sales such that no external loans would be required;
- iii) once the plant is reopened it should quickly attain a sustainable level of production to avert future closure; and
- iv) after attaining an optimum level of production ALSCON would be advertised for privatisation through the Bureau for Public Enterprises in an open, transparent and competitive bidding.

7.4 Meanwhile efforts have also reached an advanced stage in securing a new technology provider and in the execution of new agreements on product sales and technical support services. A restructuring of the management is also being considered to improve efficiency and reduce operational costs.

7.5 The first phase of the dredging of Imo River has been completed. This would provide maritime access to ALSCON'S harbour to enable the importation of raw materials and exportation of the company's finished products. The Ministry is also putting in place plans to ensure that the channel is adequately maintained. At the moment, all necessary navigational aids and equipment are being installed in the channel after which it would be registered in the International Chart of Admiralty. It is sad to say here however, that some of these aids and equipment were recently vandalized by some of the local people.

7.6 Government is however making moves to improve security in the area in order to avert such occurrences in future. Government policy in essence in the Aluminium sub sector, is geared towards the reopening of the plant within the shortest time possible, completion of the plant and the attainment of sustainable, profitable operations to make way for privatisation.

8.0 Gentlemen of the Press, I thank you for your patience and I believe you will agree with me that the Power, Steel and Aluminium sectors are undergoing a revolutionary restructuring. We are confident that with God on our side positive results will start to show before too long.

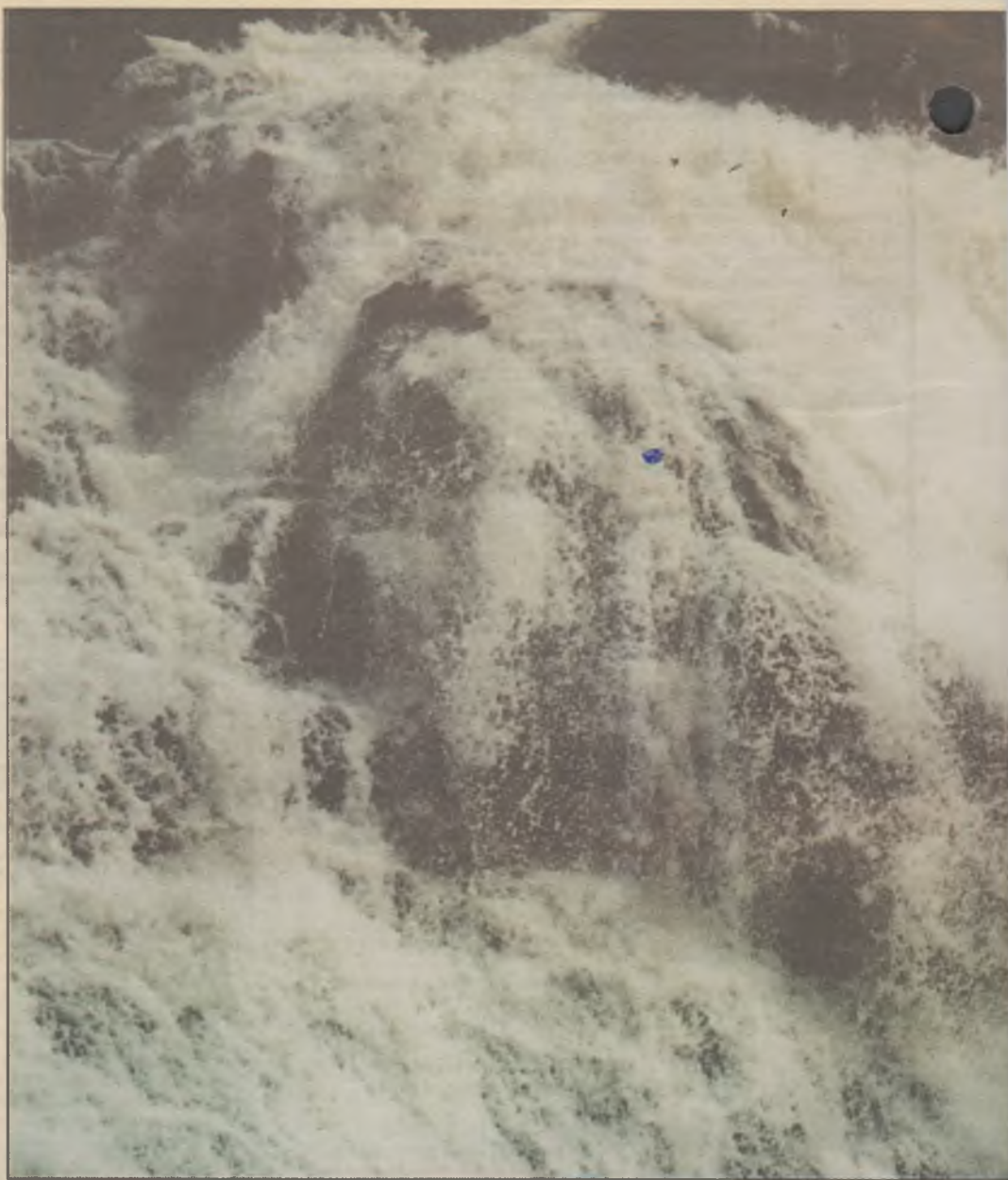


Part of the village of Bonu



Musa Yusuf gesticulates in the direction of Gurara Falls

Gurara Falls impress with their enchanting echoes, the white foam, and the magnetic intensity of mobile waters. The waters descend from a height and rush across a sequence of rocks which, over time, have come to form a series of steps that, contrary to the norm, proceed downwards. This is Nature's own series of steps along which, like a royal, the water makes a



The final descent.

Gurara Falls

By Tadaferua Ujorha

daily descent. How many descents would it make in one day? The waters continually pour, and sing. Such beauty! The spray of the agile waters, and the enchanting white of the foam turn you into a child again, and you go back numerous decades while remaining in that same spot.

The sunlight falls upon the body of water, and you joyfully observe the miracle, as sunlight makes the water rather golden, but the waters move forward, and another lot arrive and pass through the same golden, and genial influence of the sun, and move along to have experiences downstream.

At Gurara there are a series of waterfalls alongside the larger ones, and one can imagine that the song of the waters here would be less intense than those of the larger falls. There is a continuous

pouring, and whiteness here.

Around the waterfall there are Picnickers and people engaged in fishing. A European present would not give his name, but he would allow us to take a photograph of him fishing. There are embankments, and many rocks too, around which we climbed. Close to the waterfall you notice that the rocks present a variety of colours. Some are dark brown, others are pale brown, while some possess a rather grey aspect.

The village of Bonu is the nearest human settlement to Gurara Falls and Musa Yusuf tells us that in the ancient days when technology was not as advanced as it is today, dwellers of Bonu would listen for the sound of the waterfall in order to find a way back home. Thus, the waterfall served as a beacon and a guide to the



Gurara Falls



The beauty of the cascading waters

Feature



An expanse of rocks at Gurara Falls

bought by visitors to the hill. But some havoc seems to have visited the place, as the roofs have almost completely disappeared, and the structure provides evidence of neglect.

Also, one needs to proceed downwards carefully. The little bridge across upon which one could walk leads to a descent which is certainly dangerous, and the sign post placed there, confirms this point. Along the way up to the base of the melodious waters are a series of rocks, which you climb around to get your goal. These are nice spots where one could have a picnic too.

At Gurara Falls there is Beauty welling out of Nature with a splendid melody. There are the stirrings towards nobility, which flow from an environment, that is lofty and pure.



Another face of Gurara Falls

Pictures by Felix Onigbinde

Like a Royal

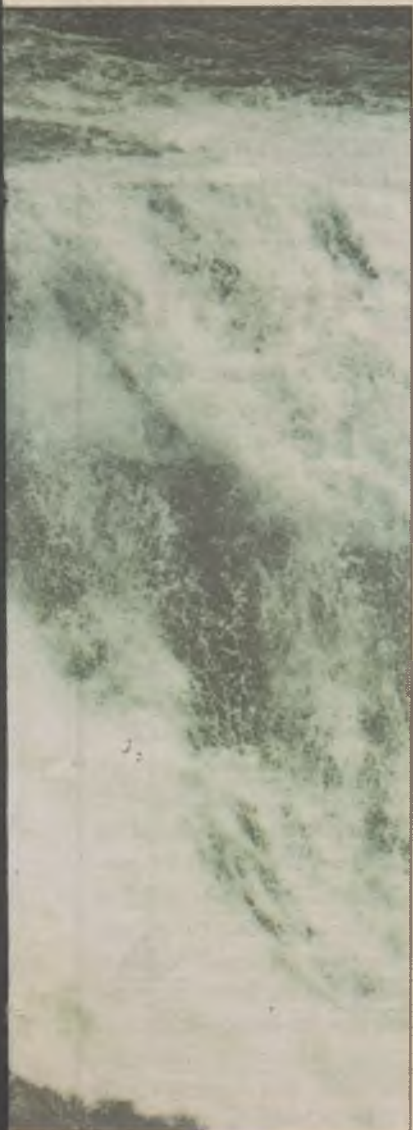
dwellers of the area. This must have been a most melodious guide.

He also recalled a story, which became popular during the time of the colonials. It seemed that once the colonials wanted to build a structure by the waterfall and, they met the village Head of Bonu who instructed that they should produce a ram, a cock and a goat for sacrificial purposes. This they did, but their project could not commence effectively. They returned to the village Head, who now averred that some of the Europeans must have worn red clothing when they went to the falls. Therefore, he advised the Europeans not to go to the Gurara Falls in red clothing. This, they faithfully did, and they were able to build a structure around the waterfall.

Musa Yusuf also said that the Gurara Falls is a

kind river, and he added that there are some small fishes, which Royals were wont to catch long ago. It was only after the royals had done their bit of fishing that other members of the society could now proceed to the river. He implied that there must have been a sanction for those who broke this code of behaviour, which interestingly, is another method of prolonging some species of Aquatic matter.

A road turns off the highway and within four minutes, or so you would be at Gurara. There is fine vegetation all round which promises to be good for hunting and farming too. In the distance, are one or two persons cutting trees for firewood. There is a little structure at the fall, which seems to have been a place where minerals and other snacks could be



We found a visitor fishing

Feature

Remembering Aminu Kano

It is exactly 18 good years since the sudden demise of one of the African revolutionaries, Malam Aminu Kano. He was a radical politician who lived all his life fighting for the emancipation of the down trodden, the Talakkawa. The entire life of this genius dwelt upon democratic precepts, women's rights, equality, and freedom. Aminu Kano cast himself as a man of destiny brought upon the scene to liberate his people not in a stereotyped manner, but in a general way.

Aminu Kano strongly felt that the emirate system, although its adherents professed to be orthodox, fundamentalist followers of Prophet Mohammed (SAW) and the holy Qur'an had actually sunk into the same heresies committed by the Habe dynasties and other Hausa states around the turn of the century in 1800. They were using the Holy Qur'an to justify and bolster their own hierarchical status quo, but nowhere in the Qur'an was there justification for maintaining such authoritarianism. Aminu Kano felt, and stated so many times, that correction of those injustices was not possible through reform of the existing governmental framework. His stand against injustices was manifested right from when he was a child, as portrayed by Alan Feinstein in his book African Revolutionary: 'The life and times of Nigeria's Aminu Kano: When his grandmother tried to teach the five-year-old Aminu, he

By Usman Garba Santuraki

rebelled. For one reason or another, he didn't like her. When she beat him with her grass fan, the young rebel had not yet absorbed enough of the centuries old culture to cower and run away as quickly as his legs could carry him. Instead, he took calabash in his hand and threw it at her.

There was evidence of his future rebellious role in 1935, before the modern-day students unrest. Aminu Kano led a riot of students of Kano Middle School against the shortage of soap, poor food, restrictions, and many severe codes of behaviour.

Despite his rebelliousness, Aminu still paid deference where it was due, to his elders, and generally those above him in the pecking order. He was not a follower, for he was always brash, eager and pursued anything aggressively; this is why it didn't take him long to master the art of writing of both Qur'anic verses on his slate, and beginning to sop up the ABC's and the written English language. Abubakar jalingo, a NEPU stalwart, and a close ally said:

"Aminu Kano during his school days was fond of gathering young children around him to show them his book and enthusiastically report anything he might have learned that day".

This was further collaborated by Alan Feinstein the

author of his biography and right from then he became a proselytizer for more education, better sanitation and cleanliness for all. This trend is the basis for his early energetic, one man campaigns for modernisation and self help.

Aminu Kano's hatred for injustices is an inherited one because even his father, Mallam Yusufu as chief Alkali hated injustices and it is because of this, that he retired in



Mallam Aminu Kano

1948. With the death of his father in 1967, Aminu began the crusade against the perpetrators of injustice whom he termed "Native Autocracy" whose stocks-in-trade are conniving and scheming rule of personal opportunism that prevailed at that time. The turning point in his life was when he began to fight for the emancipation of the

Tallakawa. As a teacher, he insisted reforms need not be gradual and that what was necessary was an internal revolution in philosophy and psychology to release the people from their political shackles. And also in 1950 when he left his teaching career to enter the political arena, and with his bosom friend Sa'adu Zungur, they lit the fire of nationalism, democracy and anti-colonialism

nard Shaw a sociology teacher at London University and his befriending of some left leaning MPs and his admiration of the Labour party for its welfare state. When he came back, he intensified the campaign by organising rallies in market places together with his friend Sa'ad Zungur for a social change of the institutions of administration headed by the British at that time and the traditional headed by the emirs and chiefs in the Northern Region.

Aminu Kano played a vital and important role in the constitutional reforms of this great country as he participated in the 1953 Constitutional Conference in London, all in his bid to have a stable, virile nation, devoid of oppression, rancour and intransigence of the conservative class and the feudal lords. However, the event of 1966 ushered in a totally new era for both Nigeria and Aminu Kano, one marked by the attempt to impose national unity through military rule and the civil war that followed.

Being a federalist and firm believer in one Nigeria all his political life, Aminu Kano as the one who urged the so-called leaders of thought to come forward to help determine the direction of the new government of General Yakubu Gowon, rather than sit on the sidelines, watching events unfold. It is also because of his desire to have a united Nigeria that he ac-

cepted that the army needed to have a strong central government. He also served as the chairman of the sub-committee for the break-up of the regions into additional states. And when the 12 states were created, he accepted to serve as what was hitherto known as Federal Commissioner of Communication, and later Health in the government of General Gowon for the specific purpose of the famous three R's after the Civil war. Aminu Kano has a good relationship with the people of the southern part of this country. As the realities of the civil war settled upon Nigeria, those Igbo who were in Lagos and the rest of Nigeria could not forget their good relationship with him as he rendered invaluable assistance to them. His conciliatory attitude gave him the leeway for such assistance because some stories were said that through his intervention, an Asaba Igbo was released from jail and there was a truck full of the Igboman's fellow villagers, 90 of them all, who came to thank him for the release of their 'brother' and for the risks he took. They left him with a saying "Men like you leave us with high hopes for the future of Nigeria". He died in April 1983 without seeing the actualisation of his crusade being fulfilled. *Allah ya Jikan ka Malam.*

Usman Garba Santuraki writes from No.75 Tafida Street Jimeta-Yola Adamawa State.

Democracy is simply defined as the government of the people and for the people according to political Scientists. But how well do the people understand the workings of democracy? What is the level of their participation in the government of their country as expected of them?

How much contribution have they made towards the survival of their young democracy?

These and many other question 's formed the basis of a recent press conference in Lagos at the United States Information Center (UNSIC) by an American's non-governmental organization for civic education. It aims at strengthening effective education of informed and responsible citizen in new and established democracies around the world.

Civil Education and Democracy in Nigeria

Political analysts in Nigeria saw the presence of CIVITAS in Nigeria as a welcome development since it is a general belief that no democracy can adequately function without the support of citizens who understood its foundation in ideas, institutions and practices and know how, to ensure their problems and aspirations are addressed by the government charged with representing them.

All democracies, particularly new democracies like ours, will only evolve, develop and flourish with an informed, and engaged citizenry. Civic education is needed for people to acquire knowledge, skills, attitudes and democratic values, which foster their capacity to participate competently and

By Wisdom Patrick In Lagos.

responsibly in their societies.

It must be stated here therefore that Civic education must also respect human rights and cultural diversity. Analysts hinted that with civic education in Nigeria, the problem of a military ethos would be a thing of the past. This is because, the people would have been politically emancipated and redeemed from the apron of military mentality.

It therefore dawns on the relevant agencies of government to leave sentiment aside and begin to parley with CIVITAS so as to be able to prepare people's mind towards the creation of the rightful atmosphere for our young democracy to flourish.

Mr. Douglas Philips a consultant in the center for civic

Education in Calabar, California and Mr. Wimi Walson-Jack of CIVITAS Nigeria at the press conference both bared their minds on their package for Nigerians as CIVITAS takes off in Nigeria, the first in Africa.

According to Douglas Philips, a package titled "Project Nigeria" has already been put in place. He also said the programme would start in primary and secondary schools in the country. The students would be taught how to analyze knowledge, and skills and values that are essential for citizenship participation in established emerging democracies.

The package also includes a teaching strategy that can be used in teaching civic education for democracy in and outside schools.

The panel discussion aspect of the package would be in the form of an interactive session where participants would be asked to role-play a debate on a topical issue in the country.

The entire programme entails the ability of the individual to develop their scholarly tendencies and cultivate the habit of finding solutions to their problems by themselves.

"If there is anything the government should do according to Dr. Adebawale Adeyemi of the Political Science Department Lagos State University is that chance to contribute to its success. That means every citizen having the knowledge, competence and desire to make their contribution to their own society,

and at whatever level in whatever way".

The programme which has been tested in countries like Ukraine, Venezuela, Panama, Philippine and found to be very successful must be supported and allowed to work in Nigeria so that our people would no longer be fooled even by less schooled politicians.

Another unique benefit of Civic education is that it cultivates in that mind of the citizens the culture of lawfulness while helping in their advancement of democracy. It must be stated here that our lawmakers and center for democratic study must take civic education serious, and support CIVITAS in Nigeria.

Wisdom Patrick is a staff of Daily Trust

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The Public is hereby notified that the above named has applied for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Decree 1,1990.

The Trustees are:

- 1. Professor Job Olutimhin Atteh Secretary
- 2. Mr. Moses Joseph Dare Chairman

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission PMB 198 Area II Garki Abuja. within 28 days of this publication.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT

This is to inform the general public that the above named Non-Government Organizations has applied for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Decree of 1990.

The Trustees are:

- 1. Dr. Abubakar Rasheed
- 2. Dr. Sa'idu Ahmad
- 3. Dr. Isma'ila Abubakar
- 4. Alh. Muhammad Abubakar
- 5. Mal. Shehu Tsiga
- 6. Mal. Muhammad Nuhu
- 7. Dr. Muhammad Bello

An objection to the registration should be directed to Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Area 11, Garki, PMB 198 Abuja within 28 days of this publication

Signed
 Dr. Sa'idu Ahmad

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as **HASSAN ABUBAKAR** now wish to be called **HASSAN ABUBAKR D/GORO**, F.M. W. & H.to note.

I formerly known as **SANI JUME** now wish to be called **SANI JUME B.** F.M. W. & H. to note.

I formerly known as **MISS AISHA TANIMU AHMAD** now wish to be known and called **MRS AISHA USMAN**. NYSC and general public to take note. All former documents remain valid.

CHANGE OF NAME

I **PATRICIA ADEH BISONG** now **PATRICIA ADEH OJIKPONG** former documents remain valid SPEB Calabar, Unical and general public take note.

UZOH: I formerly known sa **MISS FLORA NGOZI** now wish to be known as **MRS. FLORA NGOZI IHEKA**. All former documents remain valid, National Hospital Abuja and General public please take note.



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NEWS

Gov. declares Jigawa guinea worm free

The Governor of Jigawa state, Alhaji Ibrahim Saminu Turaki, has declared the state guinea worm-free.

The governor made this declaration in an address read on his behalf by the Jigawa state Head of service, Engineer Abdulkadir Jinjiri Dutse, during the state-wide mass immunization campaign in against Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis (CSM) in Maigatari. He said that, Maigatari being the only local government where cases of guinea worm used to be reported had not got such reports this year.

By Bala Mohammed Nasir Dutse



Gov. Saminu

He therefore, commended the Primary Healthcare

Agency, Global 2000 and the National Guinea-worm Eradication Programme, which he said, played commendable roles towards achieving this goal.

On Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, Alhaji Saminu Turaki said his government had accorded primary healthcare services great importance, being the reason for the disbursement of the sum of N2.5 million to the state's Primary Healthcare Agency to procure more vaccines as well as logistics to widen the scope of the immunization exercise against CSM.

In his speech at the occasion, the executive secretary of the States Primary Healthcare Agency, Dr. Abba Zakari Umar said CSM is airborne but other factors such as overcrowding, poor ventilation and dry weather also help in the emergence of an epidemic. He however, explained that a single dose of CSM vaccine protects an individual for between 3-5 years. The secretary called on the people of the state and beyond to make sure they were immunized against the killer disease.

A mass vaccination programme for animals against epizootic diseases has taken off in Yobe State as Governor Bukar Abba Ibrahim promised to place high priority on the production and sustenance of livestock.

Flagging off the mass vaccination programme at Babbangida in Tarmuwa local government area of the state, Governor Ibrahim described the state's large livestock population as a major resource base.

In his speech at the occasion, the state Commissioner for Agriculture and Animal Resources, Alhaji Baba Bukar said vaccination programmes, specifically targeted "Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP)"

Yobe battle livestock diseases

From Abdullahi Bego, in Damaturu

which is a severe respiratory disease that affects cattle and according to him, is more severe than Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) that presently ravages the animal population in Europe.

Designed to achieve at least 60 percent coverage of the over two million herds of cattle and over three million sheep and goats in the state, the commissioner said the vaccination programme was aimed at boosting and sustaining the immune status of the animals against killer diseases.

Makarfi urges Christians to learn from Easter

Christians have been told to use the lessons of Easter to rededicate themselves to the service of God, the country and mankind.

The Kaduna state governor Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi, who gave the charge in his Easter

From Dare Oyewole, in Kaduna

use the occasion of Easter to reflect over the rudiments and pillars of Christianity.

Describing Easter as of "great significance", Alhaji Makarfi said the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ form some of the basic imperatives of Christianity as a religion of peace and sacrifice which gave Christians the world over assurance and hope for

salvation. "As we consolidate the gains of democracy, we should all resolve to create for ourselves and future generations a society that is the pride of all", he added.

Commending the people of the state for their support, he said: "This has been the tonic that has always ginged us to strive to give more than our best for the development of our dear state".



Gov. Makarfi

message, also urged them to adhere strictly to the Christian principle of respect for one another, irrespective of their differences.

He said this was the surest recipe for peace, which was a fundamental prerequisite for development, stating that Christians should

... charges experts on information technology

Governor Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi of Kaduna State has called on education experts to intensify their efforts in information technology that would demphasise classroom teaching.

The governor gave the advice against the backdrop of growing student enrolment without corresponding facilities and infrastructure.

Alhaji Makarfi was speaking at the opening session of the state's 18th conference of principals of

post-primary institutions and inspectors of education held in Kaduna at the weekend.

He said evolvement of an information technology that would affect teaching without too much of classroom was

imperative at this period of our development.

Stressing the need for a "drastic change" he noted with concern that the state was at a serious disadvantage educationally.

"We are at a serious disadvantage and we are still trying to catch up with things that had gone by 100 years," he lamented.

He however said that the solution was for all

concerned to refocus themselves for the betterment of the people of the state in particular and the country in general.

According to him, India was an economic power not because of what it was producing but by the knowledge it was exporting.



The Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Egyptian Stock Exchange during the G-15 capital market workshop in Egypt. Picture shows the Director General of NSE, Mrs. Ndidi Okereke Onyuike and the chairman of ESE, Dr. Samiel E. I. Torqonan (r) signing the MOU

Mrs. Tinubu assists Muslim youths with N1m

The Lagos State First Lady and president of the New Era Foundation (NEF), Chief Mrs. Oluremi Bilkis Tinubu has donated one million naira to the state's branch of the National Council of Muslim Youth Organisations

From Abdul Ajidi, in Lagos

(NACOMYO) to aid its educational programmes.

Mrs. Tinubu, who announced the donation while delivering a keynote address at the annual Hijrah Family Day celebration of NACOMYO weekend, also

announced an annual scholarship award for any three brilliant but indigent science students recommended by the organization.

Furthermore, the First Lady also pledged three trophies for NACOMYO's annual science quiz competition among secondary school students in Lagos State.

Mrs. Tinubu stated that she was impressed and encouraged by NACOMYO's activities so far, noting that the organization had the vision and capacity to bring about phenomenal social change in the state.

She explained that NEF was founded to improve the welfare of individuals and families in the state, especially the underprivileged ones.

The foundation, she said, relied on the continued support of dynamic

organizations like NACOMYO to enable it achieve its objectives.

Said she: "A major challenge before us when we regained democracy about two years ago was to improve the general well being of the family. We were concerned in particular with the plight of the less privileged and the young ones who are usually touted as future leaders when in fact no provisions were made for them to take up leadership position in future. This is one of the cardinal objectives that informed the inauguration of the New Era Foundation as a non-governmental organization. It is gratifying to note that NEF has been recording giant strides in the positive transformation of our society".

The First Lady enjoined Muslims to continue to pray for God's guidance for the nation's leaders so that the country could achieve socio-economic prosperity.

Akilu recommends Sharia for all Nigerians

Former Director of Military Intelligence (DMI), Brigadier-General Halilu Akilu (rtd) has described the Sharia legal system as the only antidote to the nation's numerous problems, thus recommending it for all parts of the country.

General Akilu who was the chairman at the launching of a book on Sharia in Nigeria, written by Dr. Ishaq Akintola of the Lagos State University (LASU), described the Sharia as a divine welfare programme

From Abdulfattau Olajide, Lagos

which is good for both Muslims and non-Muslims.

He enjoined non-Muslims to cease their opposition to the Sharia and embrace the Islamic legal system so that Nigeria could be transformed to a better country.

Also speaking at the occasion, the secretary-general of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (SCIA), Dr. Abdulateef

Adegbite reiterated that Nigeria is a multi-religious state rather than a secular one as being stressed by the antagonists of Sharia.

He chided the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Chief Dubem Onyia, for describing the country as a secular one, saying that he does not understand the religious personality of his country.

Dr. Adegbite declared that Muslims couldn't live in a secular state, explaining

that "to do so will amount to annulling their faith".

"We cannot be citizens of a secular state. I plead with non-Muslims to desist from mischaracterizing the religious personality of Nigeria. It is wrong to continue to erroneously describe Nigeria as a secular state when the realities indicate the opposite, and clearly show that both in law and in fact, Nigeria is a multi-religious country."

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Jankai Primary School, Gombe is among the many primary and secondary schools rehabilitated by Abubakar Hashidu government.



Gombe-Abba Junction-Hashidu Road, under construction by Abubakar Hashidu administration.



Completed by Gov. Abubakar



One of the township roads rehabilitated by Gov. Abubakar Hashidu administration.



Poultry production unit rehabilitated by Gov. Hashidu's government. It produces 24,608 chickens in 21 days



50 unit 3-bedroom housing complex currently under construction in Gombe to ease accommodation problem.



Under the Poverty Alleviation Programme of Gombe state government, even wheelbarrow traders benefited. Here is Gov. Abubakar Hashidu inspecting some of the wheelbarrows.



Gombe Radio and Television building under construction.



Erosion control in Gombe and Billiri to control ecological problems in Gombe State



Gombe Fertiliser Company initiated and completed by Gov. Hashidu administration. Inset: A bag of the NPK fertiliser produced at the factory.



Students and members of the public can now have access to internet at Gombe library. Inset: Set of new book procured for public use in the library.



INSIDE POLITICS

Dep. Gov., Commissioner clash in Jigawa State

Internal politics between the Jigawa State Deputy Governor, Alhaji Shehu Kwatalo and the state's Commissioner of Education, Alhaji Abba Anas Adamu, marred the commissioning of the Skills Acquisition and Vocational Training Centre, Hadejia.

The occasion which started at 3 o'clock in the afternoon was attended by the state's governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Saminu Turaki and his Deputy Alhaji Shehu Kwatalo, who were on seat when suddenly the education commissioner arrived the venue amidst cheers from his supporters. This almost disrupted the occasion as the procedures of the ceremony were temporarily halted due to soaring cheers the commissioner's arrival attracted from the crowd in attendance.

Apparently unhappy with the commissioner's attitude whom it was reported was in town but intentionally arrived the venue late just to show the level of his popularity, the Deputy Governor who is from the same town with the

From Bala Mohammed Nasir, in Dutse

commissioner, that is, the venue of the ceremony, Hadejia, stood up to warn all commissioner against violating protocols. He said that all the commissioners should know that he has the power to dismiss any disobedient one among them.

According to the Deputy Governor, "now is not time for politics. Whoever wants to start political campaigning should wait for such time, but it is time for work now." Adding that politics is their game and they are going to play it but at the appropriate time.

It is, however, rumoured that the commissioner organised the ovation in order to show the Deputy Governor that he is more popular than him in Hadejia where the two come from. This was, therefore, allegedly intended by the Commissioner to put to test the Deputy Governor's seeming intention to contest in the future elections.

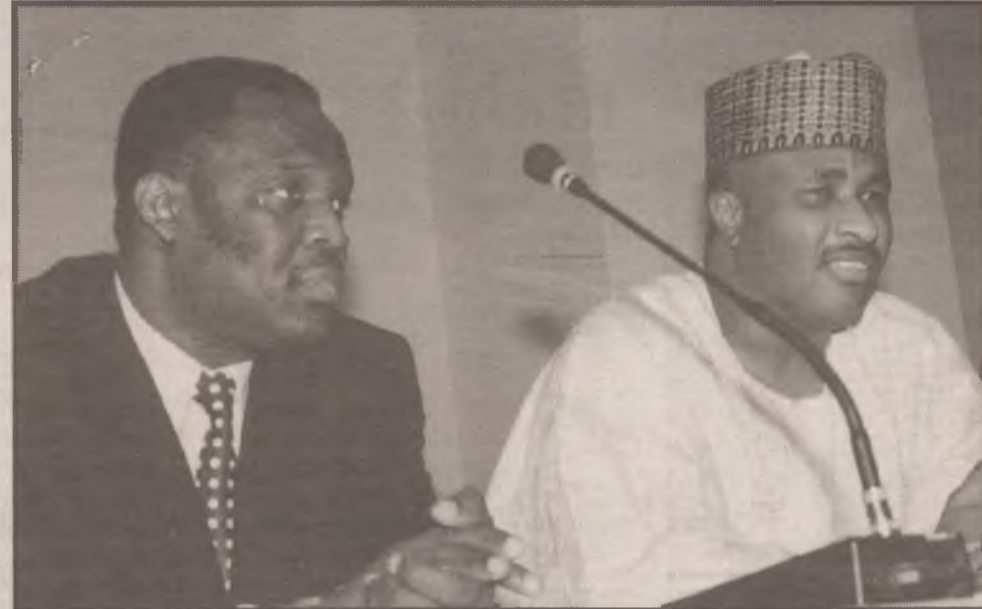
Also, some people at the

occasion tried to bored the state governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Saminu Turaki, when it was his turn to deliver his address. It was the governor's polite speech that calmed them down.

However, at the end of the ceremony all the guests went to Alhaji Shettima Hassan's house in Hadejia, where they

stayed for about three hours. It is widely circulated that a closed door meeting was conducted over the Commissioner's attitude and the Deputy Governor's public outburst.

Among the dignitaries that attended the ceremony were the Emirs of Hadejia, Alhaji Abubakar Maje, Gumel, Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Sani, Dutse, Alhaji Nuhu Mohammed Sunusi, Ringim, Alhaji Sayyadi Mahmud and that of Kazaure Alhaji Najib Hussain Adamu.



Hon. Auwal D. Tukur (l) and Hon. Yomi Ogunyomi (r) during the public hearing on NAMA at National Assembly complex, Abuja... recently

Pix: Felix Onigbinde

Rep. blames FG. for ASUU strike

By Henry Omu

Rep. Atine Idikwu, chairman House of Representatives labour committee who made the accusation, said government must take full blame for the ASUU strike because it refused to abide by the agreement reached with striking university lecturers.

Tracing the genesis of the present strike of ASUU members, the lawmaker said the agreement in dispute was brokered last year by the National Assembly, between ASUU and the federal government.

He said ASUU agreed to resume lectures last year on the understanding that the agreement will be implemented by the government.

Complained Rep. Idikwu: "It's unfortunate, what is happening in the education sector.

"The federal government had this problem before, and we interceded. They (ASUU) then went back to their classrooms, but with a provision that government will play ball.

"All efforts, however, to get government play ball as far as the agreement reached with ASUU is concerned has failed, the committee chairman said.

According to Rep. Idikwu, government should take a second look at the agreement, and implement part of the agreement based on their merits and feasibility.

He said government has been careless with issues affecting education, but advised that rather than government expending large amounts on frivolities, it should spend such funds on improving the standard of education in the country.

"If we want education, we have to pay for it like other parts of the world are doing. Education is what will give our children their future.

"Government should, therefore, retrace its steps and look at how it can implement the agreement," Rep. Idikwu said.

He, however, appealed to the striking lecturers to leave their door open for more dialogue between it and government, so as to find how to resolve the current stand-off.

"The House education and labour committees have been dialoguing with ASUU, but so far, the matter is deadlocked. Nothing it seems would make ASUU change its position," the lawmaker added.

Obasanjo sues for peace

President Olusegun Obasanjo has sued for peace among the various ethnic groups in the country, saying it is the only factor that can ensure rapid development.

Obasanjo made the appeal at the conferment of the traditional chieftancy title of Aremo Awujale on the Ogun State Governor, Chief Olusegun Osoba, by the Awujale of Ijebu-land, Oba Sikiru Kayode Adetona, the Ogbagba II.

The nation's helmsman noted that rivalry could bring development when it is positive. He described the conferment as something that has never happened in the history of the Egbas and the Ijebus.

President Obasanjo who was on a private visit to Ogun State, only stopped by at Ijebu-Ode where he explained that the occasion was a sign of positive things to come in the relationship between the two ethnic groups in the future.

The number one citizen of Nigeria who spoke in Yoruba described the Awujale "as a successful first class traditional ruler, who sees all as sons and daughters."

His words; "What you have done today is unprecedented, and it is good that it has happened

From Olumide Bajulaiye, in Abeokuta

for the first time in Ogun State as it shows that the Egbas and Ijebus are but one blood."

In his acceptance speech, Chief Osoba described the Awujale "as a beacon of rights and a towering father



Gov. Olusegun Osoba

figure whose shoulder was readily available for me to lean on during the dark days of the late dictator, Gen. Sani Abacha."

According to Chief Osoba, "Oba Kayode Adetona became one of the victims of my own travails because late Gen. Sani Abacha's security agents laid siege on numerous occasions on his palace, presumably laying ambush for me since they were under the erroneous impression that

I was being protected and shielded right inside this vast palace.

"Even when blackmailers set out to rubbish the suffering that my family and I went through by setting students against me through

false story and malicious misinformation, Ogbagba II was there as a solid rock to vouch, in his honour, for my integrity and steadfastness," Osoba said.

The Aremo Awujale however, promised to

dedicate his new life "to the pursuit of the greatest good of all our people hoping that by so doing, I would justify in my little way, the recognition which it has pleased Almighty God to grant me."

PDP chieftain faults Obasanjo's assessment of Imo State

Chieftain of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Imo State, Chief Victor Obioha, has condemned comments made by President Olusegun Obasanjo during his recent visit to Imo, saying that his declaration that the state is not marginalized was not in good faith.

According to Obioha, who spoke in an interview with *Daily Trust*, the statement was a clear indication of the president's pathological hatred for the Igbo.

He said the fact that the President made such a declaration on entering the state without investigating or seeing things for himself, indicated that his speech had been written before he saw the dilapidated infrastructure on ground in the state.

Said he: "For President Obasanjo to say that Imo State is not marginalized shows that he drove into Imo with a prepared speech. I'm sure the speech had been written for

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

him before he came to the state. He was not speaking from what he was seeing."

Obioha said that the fact that the state's telephone exchange is still analogue and that the Owerri airport is the only airport in the nation built by individuals independent of government, depicts the level to which Imo State has been marginalized by the federal government over the years.

He argued that as a PDP member he was aware of contracts worth billion of naira for dual carriageways and other projects in other parts of the country, adding that the policy of government should be hinged on the need to be fair to all and sundry.

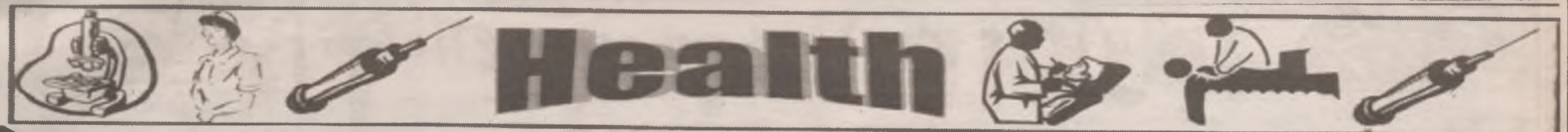
He maintained that the policy of marginalizing the East should be dropped as their continued marginalisation will only hinder the nation's progress and prosperity.

On the state of the nation, Obioha said there was nothing much to cheer about and urged the various tiers of government to ensure that Nigerian reap the dividends of democracy.

Said he: "The fuel is not there for the people to make use electricity is not there, roads are not there and the powers that be are moving around as if all is well. In fact apart from a few governors and chairmen nothing is happening anywhere."



President Obasanjo



50 million people suffer epilepsy

Epilepsy affects 50 million people worldwide, 80 percent of whom live in developing countries including Nigeria. This revelation was made by the Minister of State for Health, Dr. Amina Ndalolo in Abuja.

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

the 2001 World Health Day celebration to commence comprehensive control measures for the disease and other mental health disorders at all levels of health care.

She promised that the Ministry of Health was poised to take advantage of

She announced that at the global level, a campaign against epilepsy tagged "Epi-

lepsy out of the shadows" spear headed by the International league against Epilepsy was already on. The campaign is in collaboration with the World Health Organisation and the Organisation of African Unity.

Decrying the manner our society treat epilepsy, the minister opined that, "we must pay attention to our fellow citizens who suffer from epilepsy and are unfortunately victims of discrimination in matters pertaining to school admissions, job op-

portunities, marriage and insurance."

According to her, 70 percent of persons with epilepsy can live normal lives if properly treated but statistics indicate that 80 percent of them receive no treatment at all.

The Ministry of Health

has mapped out plans that will ensure the situation of people with epilepsy changes in the next few years, the minister promised.

This year's World Health Day focused on mental health.



Dr. (Mrs.) Amina Ndalolo, Minister of State for Health

Zimbabwe takes measures to control malaria outbreak

Zimbabwean Health and Child Welfare Minister, Timothy Stamps, on Saturday said in a statement that the government was taking a series of measures to curb malaria outbreak in the country.

He said Zimbabwe has developed and used a number of interventions to reduce the impact of malaria including case management, malaria surveillance, epidemic control, selective indoor re-

sidual spraying, introduction of insecticide treated bed-nets, public awareness programmes and roll back malaria.

Roll back malaria is a global initiative to halt the number of malaria deaths by the year 2010 and reduce the impact of malaria in the world.

"The objectives of roll back malaria are to encourage wider action and partnership to tackle malaria, encourage commitment by more countries to reduce or waive taxes and tariffs for all malaria control tools, mosquito nets, anti-malaria drugs, insecticides," Stamps said.

He appealed to Zimbabweans to increase innovative ways of getting more affordable insecticide treated bed-nets, and get increased participation in malaria control by private companies, organisations and local authorities.

The Health Ministry was appealing for a minimum of 5 million Zimbabwean dollars (about 100,000 U.S. dollars) for its malaria outbreak control programme, he said.

He said the money was needed to pay incentive allowances to people involved in the outbreak and to buy tents, stretcher beds and anti-malaria drugs.

According to Stamps, malaria continues to be a major public health problem

in Zimbabwe and in the African continent as a whole.

"The disease contributes more than 30 per cent of all the outpatient cases reported in the country and is the second highest cause of in-patient deaths in all the health institutions," he said.

"A total of 1,391,806 clinical malaria cases with 43,097 as in-patients and 1,902 deaths due to malaria were reported in the country last year," the Minister said, explaining that "this does not include community deaths that are not recorded in the national health system."

This year up to April 1, a total of 159,723 clinical malaria cases and 139 deaths have so far been reported giving an average number of 12,286 cases per week and 11 deaths, he said.

Economic hardship identified as cause of mental disorder

The current economic hardship and high level of uncertainty facing many Nigerian households have led to a deterioration in the mental health of many Nigerians. If the trend is not urgently reversed, many Nigerians will develop mental disorders in no distant future.

From Samson Ojo, in Lagos

that the political instability experienced during military rule in the country resulted to many Nigerians suffering various forms of mental disorders.

He further said that with the inauguration of democratic form of governance in the country, it was expected that the level of the mental status of Nigerians would improve, but this has not happened, because of the economy.

Oladapo, urged the federal government to institute policies and programmes that would improve the social and economic well-being of Nigerians. He argued that if this

was done, the mental health status of many Nigerians would improve.

The PAN Secretary said that psychiatrists in the country had in the past held seminars, press conference, lectures and talks to increase the level of awareness of Nigerians on the status of their health.

He stated that many people have to be taught how to cope with stress and how to reduce the incidence of mental health disorder.

He called the federal government, state government, local government councils, pharmaceutical companies and public spirited individuals to help sponsor campaigns in this direction.

Making this observation in Lagos was the secretary of Psychiatric Association of Nigeria (PAN), Dr. Harry Oladapo.

According to him, the high incidence of unemployment, under-employment, uncertainty and anxiety have led many Nigerians to suffer from different levels of mental disorder.

The psychiatrist stated

Adamawa govt. procures CSM vaccinees

The Adamawa government has procured 600,000 doses of Cebro-Spinal Meningitis (CSM) vaccines worth N9.2 million in readiness for any eventuality, the state commissioner for health, Alhaji Ahmadu Sameni, has said.

He told newsmen in Yola on Tuesday that the Health Ministry had 90,000 doses in stock before ordering for the new

stock "to ensure that we have adequate vaccines in stock in case of any outbreak."

Sameni said that people in local government areas sharing common boundaries with Zing and Karim Lamido local government areas in Taraba, where

the state to monitor the disease, adding that "so far, we have not received any report of outbreak of the disease in Adamawa State."

He explained that all drugs supplied to the state were subjected to vigorous screening and tests to ensure that adulterated and expired drugs were not supplied.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner said, arrangements have been completed with drug manufacturers for direct supply to the state "to save us some money and keep us assured of the quality of the drugs."

On the scourge of the deadly AIDS disease in the state, the Commissioner said that figures before the Ministry showed that 2.01 per cent of the state's population had been tested positive "but you know people are not willing to come forward for the

Herbalists explain focus on STDS

Some herbal practitioners have explained why most of them concentrate on herbal mixtures for cure of sexually transmitted diseases and other related illnesses.

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

the person."

He explained that most menial workers had no other means of leisure other than, 'sleeping with women.' This according to him, they do indiscriminately and end up contacting sexually transmitted diseases.

He revealed that his herbal company had both liquid and powder herbal mixtures capable of arresting, "all kinds of sexually transmitted diseases."

However, he said that the cure for AIDS was not yet available in his herbal company, "my oga has not told us of any herb capable of curing AIDS," he said.

In a related development, another herbal practitioner Dr. Abubakar Jibrin said most herbalists had cure for sexually transmitted diseases because, "these diseases have always been with us from the time of old. In some places they are called 'women poison'."

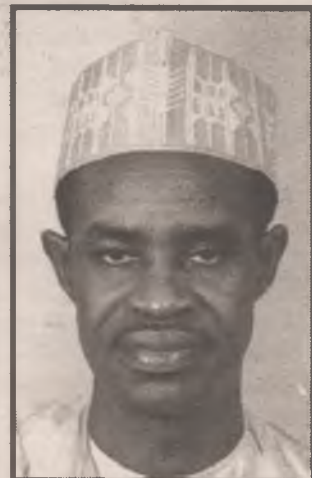
According to him, "our

grandfather had had extensive research in this area and had come out with standard cure for all these diseases."

Mr. Jibrin who hails from Kura local government in Kano State has practiced herbal medicine for over 17 years.

For Dr. Bayo Etete of Prince Tradomedical clinic said: "we specialise on curing sexually transmitted diseases because that is the area we are experts."

He explained that his clinic had developed formulas for preparation of drugs to ensure consistency and standardisation.



Gov. Boni Haruna

cases of CSM outbreak were reported, have been vaccinated to avoid spread of the disease.

The Commissioner said that staff of the immunisation department have been drafted to the 21 lo-

Arts & Entertainment

Why are we so blest?

Being a review of Dan Agbese's *Fellow Nigerians: Turning Points in the Political History of Nigeria (2000)* published by Umbrella Books, Ibadan.

History has two faces. The face of the led and that of the leader. This is true in every discipline, in every organised setting, whether barbaric, primitive or civilised.

There are ambitious leaders – either personal ambition which often leads to woe or the patriotic or nationalistic ambition which brews love and admiration for the leader and excites the candour of sacrosanct patriotism and national pride in the citizenry. But those at the receiving end of either good or evil leadership are the mass majority of the led-called subjects or the 'common man.'

Most often, it is what the leader does with power as it affects the subject that history records and reels out to posterity. History is always a winner.

Dan Agbese's *Fellow Nigerians: Turning Points in the Political History of Nigeria* provides an inventory of the leaders who strived to put their marks on the leadership map of Nigeria since the first military coup in 1966.

Agbese does this by providing us with the first speeches of the leaders as they assume office. These speeches provide basic exhibits upon which they are assessed and judged.

Agbese's judgement, nay the judgement of history, indicts virtually all the past leadership. Although Agbese in *Fellow Nigerians* gives us merely a picture of the surface turbulence in the sea of Nigeria's power play, he nonetheless shows us the, anaemic charisma, the prevarication, deceit, lies, failures and above all the pathological corruption imbued in our political class. These acts the military mastered.

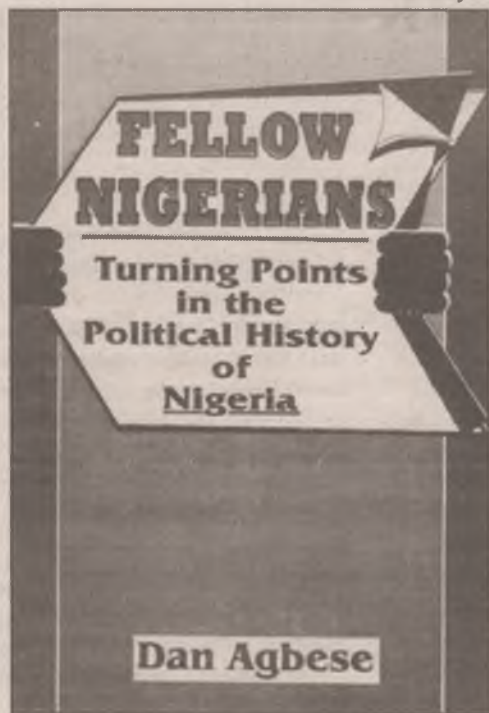
Fellow Nigerians has fourteen chapters with a foreword by Rev. Fr. Matthew Hassan Kukah and a background historical synopsis of Nigeria from 1914-1999 entitled "An Irreverent History." Here Agbese hastens to state that *Fellow Nigerians* does not even begin to tell the story of what happened to Nigeria but that it only serves as an indicator for us to "have a fair idea of what happened to us as a nation and as a people."

Chapter one, "Bullets Are Revolutions," is a speech of Major

Chukwuma Kaduna Nzeogwu. Nzeogwu said he and his colleagues-in-arm are taking over the reins of power from the elected politicians who are "...political profiteers, swindlers, the men in high and low places that seek bribes and demand ten percent; those that seek to keep

By Onah L. Iduh

Nzeogwu could not have been a patriot since what happened later in his life radically contradicts the character of patriotism. "If he was such a committed patriot, why did he support secession and the possible dismemberment of the country?"



The Book



Agbese

the country divided permanently so that they can remain in office as ministers or VIPs at least, the tribalists, the nepotists, those that make the country look big for nothing before international circles, those that have corrupted our society and put the Nigerian political calendar back by their words and deeds". But Agbese in his commentary states that "from all indications, Nzeogwu lived in his own fantasy island" and that like all such characters thrived on idealism which is symptomatic of superficiality. Agbese cited instances of Nzeogwu's mien as espoused by his (Nzeogwu's) friends.

To Agbese, Nzeogwu's coup speech "was only remarkable more for what it failed to say than what it said" and did not reflect a concrete, well-articulated revolutionary action.

Agbese reveals, giving concrete evidence, that the 'revolution' was not Nzeogwu's idea. "He was a willing recruit... The moving spirit behind the plot who provided it with the necessary revolutionary flavour was Major Emmanuel Ifeajuna". Agbese criticises the *raison d'etre* in Ademoyega's *Why We Struck* as revealed in his (Agbese) thus concluded in chapter one by asserting that

tic imagery and the dangerous, destructive metaphor of the scary and nightmarish Nigerian experience.

Couched in a fluid and lur-

Book Review

ing language, Agbese takes you on an odyssey through the dark political trough of Nigeria. From "Eye of the

bread. Their remarkable achievements usually do not go beyond the rhetoric of their inaugural addresses or coup speeches with their sparkling promises to stop our slide towards economic and political quicksand. They usually peak the hope of the citizenry only to crash it on the concrete slab of General Babangida's 'bewildered nation' or General Abacha's 'a

beggar nation.' The citizenry has been so walked-up that they, like Biblical Job, have begun to ask God why they are so blest with leaders who have in abundance all qualities but leadership.

In *Fellow Nigerians*, Agbese discusses the Nigerian situation with warmth and understanding, swallowing personal sentiments and bitterness with salivating journalistic discourse. Like all good journalistic materials, Agbese's *Fellow Nigerians* refrains from transmitting the personal feelings of the author. Rather, conclusions are drawn, in retrospect, from what each leader promised to accomplish vis-à-vis what he did while leaving office. Most importantly, each coup broadcast or inaugural speech usually provides an inventory of past failures. But the victims of each of these administrations are fellow Nigerians who serve as helpless pawns in the seismic political chessboard called Nigeria.

Like most political pundits, Agbese believes that the woes of Nigeria mostly stem from the anomic presence of the military on a terrain the topography of which they could neither comprehend nor tread with the requisite civility and decorum. They have literarily left the country worse than they found it. Their footprints in power are the gaunt faces of the citizenry, the millions of unemployed graduates, the litany of uncompleted projects. The dejection and mass impoverishment in the land contrasts sharply with the affluence they bask in. Agbese thus concluded that "twenty years

Storm" after the assassination of Ironsi, the crisis that melted into the civil war and to General Murtala's "Whirl in the Wind" to the "Sound of Sunset" resulting from Dimka's assassination of the venerable Murtala that culminated in Obasanjo's "Sunset, Sunrise."

Shagari led Nigeria with "A Touch in the Tunnel" to Buhari's "Stare of the Genie" while General Babangida's "Drops of Bitter Honey" tricks us to Orka's "Footsteps in the Dark" to Shonekan's "A brief Candle at Dawn" which glibly glided to Abacha's "Kiss of the Cobra." But from Abdulsalami "...God Voted" Obasanjo and "what Goes Up..."

The verdict of Agbese in *Fellow Nigerians* is that Nigeria's leadership history

"Throughout the remaining twelve chapters, that is, through the regimes of General Gowon to the current democratic regime of General (chief) Obasanjo and through the failed coup broadcasts of Lt. Col. B.S. Dimka (1976) and Major Orka (1990), Agbese in each chapter invokes fatalistic imagery and the dangerous, destructive metaphor of the scary and nightmarish Nigerian experience."

has always been a one-act play, which consistently banks on the most profound sensibilities of the citizenry with their luring speeches promising to turn stone into

nation is again ushered into a fresh vista of democracy under a former military ruler, General Olusegun Obasanjo. While Agbese gave a glowing testimony of president Obasanjo's political antecedents, he cautiously refrains from any predictive analytical projection that may sound prophetic. He comments that "it is morning yet on creation day" but observes that President Obasanjo's inaugural speech "reads like a coup speech with all the whistles – a litany of what had gone wrong with the country." In the afternoon of Obasanjo's leadership, Agbese may not be far from the truth – he may have really sounded like one of his political forebears in arm.

While *Fellow Nigerians* claims to be a survey of Nigeria's political history, it is intriguing that Agbese deliberately omitted the first step in indigenous leadership in the country. Except on pages xxiii, 7, 12 and 69 where scanty references were made to the first and only Prime Minister Nigeria ever had, Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, no meaningful and deliberate steps were taken to assess him. Such assessment would have served as a foundation for the whole book. But as it is, one is given the misleading impression, especially given the popular catchphrase greeting of coupists as the title of the book, that Agbese's prime focus is the military's occupation of political power. But he did express that *Fellow Nigerians* "is not necessarily an assessment of military in the country". To substantiate this, the leadership of Alhaji Shehu Shagari got a fair assessment and the now adolescent regime of President Obasanjo. Or could Agbese have wrongly thought and concluded that the period between 1960 to the 1966 coup not a "turning point" in the political history of Nigeria? What must have made Agbese to commit this analytical blunder?

The book, in spite of this major flaw and some other observable typographical errors, is certainly a reliable encyclopaedia of leadership in Nigeria. In the words of Rev. Fr. Matthew Hassan Kukah, *Fellow Nigerians* "...is commanding in its ambitions but not demanding intellectually. It has logic in its sequence but not rigid in ideology. It is emotive in its textual presentation, but far from being explosive in its claims. It has painful conclusions and lessons for the patriot, but it is not disdainful of its subject matter." No description of the book could be more apt than this.

of corrective military rule left Nigeria more or less a ruined nation."

But as the people groan from the pains of misrule, the

Arts & Entertainment

The Story of the New Nigerian Part XV

'A die-hard moralist'

In the last account the war drums sounded clearly. Today's account reveals the contours of the war cloud, while the New Nigerian unfolds as a faithful chronicler of events in government.

Books

By the beginning of April 1967 the drift towards secession and war had become unstoppable. The *New Nigerian* kept a good track of this inexorable journey to war but used its editorials and commentaries to try to salvage the worsening situation. Thus, such details as internal events within the blockaded Eastern states; "departure" of prominent Easterners from Lagos such as Pius Okigbo, C. C. Mojekwu and Louis Mbanefo; food and medical shortages within "Biafra" as well as massacre, torture and detention of Eastern minority activists by the Ojukwu regime, were made available to its readers.

Indeed, if the *New Nigerian* abhorred the Ojukwu regime for its secessionist tendency, it did not allow this judgment to sway its reasoning. For instance, as late as June 7, 1967 it carried an editorial which argued that the apparent rebellion in the Eastern part of the country should be crushed through economic rather than military means. To show just how opposed the rest of the nation was to a soft approach for Ojukwu, the Administrative Council of the Northern states (i.e. the cabinet) issued a statement carried in the *New Nigerian* of June 10 which in dissociated itself from the paper's view. According to the statement, "the Administrative Council would like to remind such quarters that though the *New Nigerian* is sponsored by the governments of the Northern states, it has been government's policy to allow the paper to enjoy complete freedom of judgment and it follows therefore that the views of the paper are not necessarily the same as those of the government."

It would seem that the *New Nigerian* was alone in canvassing for economic rather than military action. Nigerians at home and abroad had publicly protested against Ojukwu's rebellion and had urged the Federal Military Government of General Yakubu Gowon to crush the



Lt. Colonel Odumegwu Ojukwu

nascent secession in the East. Prominent among such Nigerians who aired their views through the pages of the newspaper were the 2.5 million strong National Committee of Nigerian Ex-servicemen Union and the United Labour Congress, the forerunners of today's Nigeria Labour Congress. In the East itself,

it was reported that about 6,000 Igbo men were languishing in jail for their opposition to Ojukwu's secessionist manoeuvres. In mid-April, 1967, students of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria called on the government to "declare a state of emergency in the East". This style of the *New Nigerian* coverage of the pre-war activities did not go unnoticed by the readers. One typical reaction was a letter published in the "Public Forum", the paper's letter's page, on April 10. It read: "It seems strange that some of us are still nursing the pious hope that the present crisis can be settled by negotiation...It should be obvious to us all now that Ojukwu has made up his mind to take the East out of the federation unless we are prepared to negotiate on his own terms."

The significance of this is that although the majority of Nigerians were in favour of "quick and decisive action" it was probably the words of temperance from the *New Nigerian* which influenced the soft approach taken by the Gowon administration. For example, even though Ojukwu "confiscated ten federal institutions, seized two passenger aircraft and embarked on importation of arms and ammunition, Gowon was still ready to resolve the crisis via dialogue. Indeed, when a heavy cache of explosives like gelignite, cortex and dynamite was recovered in Lagos, only security measures were intensified.

propaganda broadcasted at the spirit of the federation

The paper countered the propaganda spawned by the Enugu-based *Outlook*, the Enugu Broadcasting Service and a Western

European news agency, the Mark Press. With this full awareness of the damage that the secessionists were doing to the unity and peace of the country, the *New Nigerian* still urged the government to handle the rebels softly.

By all accounts, the creation of twelve new states on 27th May 1967

reshaped the country in a way in which it could not be easily splintered. States creation had been a standing demand among the Southern communities, but at one



Sir Ahmadu Bello, Sark of Sokoto

time anathema in the North. Indeed, even at the time it took place, mainstream Northern opinion was against it. Again, the *New Nigerian* position on it was inexplicably flexible. The paper and the Northern intelligentsia went along with the plan if only to allay the fears expressed by the South Eastern minorities who felt that their security could only be guaranteed under a multi-states structure. The state creation exercise also scored a direct hit against Ojukwu. The Eastern minorities were given their own states -Rivers and Cross River States. The Ibos were left alone in the East Central State.

Gowon used all the glory of the moment to sound a strong warning to "those who disobey the orders of their superior officers". A state of emergency was declared with the Head of State formally assuming powers of Commander-in-Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces. Gowon was also promoted to the rank of Major General. Thereafter, things moved in quick succession with appointment of Military Governors to the twelve new states. Even at this point, Colonel Ojukwu was retained along with Colonel Adebayo and Major Ejoor in the new states' council: Ojukwu for the East Central, Adebayo for the West arid Ejoor for the Mid- West. The North had six Governors.

Creation of the states served as a turning point in the pendulum of war and peace. It ultimately secured victory for the federal forces in January 1970. The exercise undermined the rebel's weak foundations and at the same time goaded Ojukwu into desperate action which culminated in his declaration of the Republic of Biafra

and therefore of war against the Federal Republic of Nigeria. In the lead story on May 19, 1967, the *New Nigerian* quoted Major Kaduna Nzeogwu, leader of the January 15, 1966 coup then living in the East, as saying that secession couldn't succeed and would only lead to

destruction of lives. Nzeogwu was to lose his life on the battle field in the civil war on the secessionist side. What an irony!

Dividing the country into states was like sharing one big problem into small pieces. When General Gowon declared war, it was against "three Eastern States" out of the nation's 12. The official statement as reported in the *New Nigerian* of May 31, 1967 said "the Head of the Federal Military Government regrets that some innocent Nigerians in the three Eastern states will suffer considerable hardship and possible loss of lives in the days ahead through the blind and inordinate ambition of Ojukwu."

Ever sober, the *New Nigerian* front page comment in the same issue cited above stated; "The news is bad. It could hardly be worse. The inevitable has happened. Pride had triumphed and reason lies trampled in the dust."

The war against corruption started at least one year before the civil war. In the period under review, the *New Nigerian* followed up the issue as it meticulously did with the political crises and the states creation issue. Its coverage of the war against corruption centred on the proceedings of the various tribunals of inquiry across the country. Those featured ranged from

the Commission of Inquiry into the Warri Divisional Planning Authority and the George Commission of Inquiry into past activities of the Nigeria Airways. Others were the inquiries into the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) and the Begho



General Yakubu Gowon

Tribunal of Inquiry into assets of former public office holders in the Mid-West. There was also the Sagoe Tribunal probing the Lagos Executive Development Board (LEDB). All these were apart from regular coverage of court cases and police reports. For instance, the trial at the Ibadan assizes of 11 out of

the 16 former Ministers in the Western Regional Government received generous coverage.

A die-hard moralist, the *New Nigerian* gave its readers all the horrible details emerging from the activities of the various inquiries. For instance, the April 15 edition reported how the Beckley Tribunal discovered that the NPA once paid £24,000 for timber worth only £8,000. In the 1960s this was a lot of money resulting from reckless inflation of contracts. At the LEDB probe, it was discovered that a woman received five plots without paying for any while the limit was one individual per plot. In its presentation, the paper did not circumlocute facts or hide identities as the press is wont to do these days when so-called big names are involved. For example, its report on May 23 captioned "Former Minister made £300,000 from contracts" named Chief Dennis Osadebay, the former Mid- West Premier, as the culprit.

Of all the national issues preceding the war, the various inquiries and probes of alleged corruption in government parastatals were prominent. This continued right into the initial weeks of the war. The various tribunals and boards of inquiries continued sitting and hearing cases up to September. On August 7 for example, the *New Nigerian* reported more disclosure of findings of the Somolu Tribunal such as the fact that Sola Fajinmi, an ex-Minister in the Western region had £6,000 pounds in his account more than his legitimate earnings. In another disclosure at the same tribunal, it was reported on August 10 that Kikeloma Ola, an 8 year old

daughter of Oladeinde Olakanmi, the Chairman of the Western Nigeria Housing Corporation, was asked to explain how she acquired a house worth £3,500.

Other notable developments

in this area included the Supreme Court ruling which confirmed the seven year jail term on Oba Akran, ex-Finance Minister of Western Nigeria. Sentenced for corruption and abuse of office by the Somolu Tribunal, Akran unsuccessfully appealed to the Supreme Court.

REG. NO.	NAME	COURSE
00454091HI	MOHAMMED IBRAHIM	STATISTICS
00580661AI	AHMED U. ABUBAKAR	COMPUTER
00420112EJ	FAROUK NAZIRU AHMED	MATHS
00454129BD	TAJUDEEN AHMED S.	STATISTICS
00454130GA	AISHA YAU KANYA	FOOD & NUT
00420140BC	BINTU MOHAMMED	FOOD & NUT
00490344HG	ISAH ABDULLAHI	AGRIC
00539150FH	UMAR RABIUTU ADAM	COMPUTER
00539286JA	USMAN SAMIRA AHMED	COMPUTER
00117801DE	ABDULLAHI JAMILU	MATHS
00454120IF	AHMAD ABUBAKAR	MATHS
00489868IG	MUHD. MAKKI IBRAHIM	MATHS
00356410AC	MUHD. SANI JAHUN	AGRIC
00539121AF	BINTA MUSA SHUAIB	COMPUTER
00523696JE	UBA GARBA	STATISTICS
00356825GA	AMINA GUMEL USMAN	FOOD & NUT
00424801JE	ABUBAKAR MUHAMMAD	MATHS
00357535CF	UBALI HAFEEZU YAU	STATISTICS
00454618GC	HARUNA S. ABUBAKAR	MATHS
00420237ED	SAIYADI MAHMOUD	AGRIC
00490037II	ABDULRAHMAN R. R.	COMPUTER
00451008JE	AHMED USMAN	MATHS
0016954GA	YUSUF SHAMSUDEEN M.	STATISTICS
00412745EB	SULEIMAN MUHAMMED	COMPUTER
00464041FE	INUWA SULEIMAN JADA	COMPUTER
00169326EG	DAUDA AMINU	AGRIC
00403518AI	GARBA ABUBAKAR R.	COMPUTER
00451922IE	YAKASAI A. BELLO	STATISTICS
00451923HG	BELLO TIJJANI YAKASAI	COMPUTER
00412257IB	SURAJO I. ABUBAKAR	P. MATHS
00412365IE	BALA BELLO MUHD.	COMPUTER
00412028FC	ZAKARIYAU A. MUHD.	AGRIC
00417918JF	BELLO SANI BAFFA	COMPUTER
00412779FD	ABUBAKAR A. MUHD.	COMPUTER
00489572GG	BAFFA JA'AFAR ADO	AGRIC
00480498CF	MUNTASIR BALARABE B.	AGRIC
00444713CF	YUSIF ABULKAREEM	STATISTICS
00489960IG	ABDULRAHMAN JIBRIL	AGRIC
00489961HI	MOHAMMAD JIBRIL	COMPUTER
00169572JG	SAMINU MUSA MAGAMI	COMPUTER
00117678DJ	SA'AD A. KOKI	COMPUTER
00451965FB	HAFEEZU GAMBO	COMPUTER
00539375II	MANSUR BALA IBRAHIM	COMPUTER
00523627EI	MARIYA SANI BABURA	COMPUTER
00539319GF	ABDULLAHI S. RINGIM	FOOD & NUT
00117264HA	TASIU ABDULLAHI A.	AGRIC
00117219IG	SHAFIU MATI NA'IIYA	STATISTICS
00539101AI	GALI SANI	APP. MATHS
00117613II	AUWALU NURA	COMPUTER
00117523AB	AUWALU BALA A.	P. MATHS
00523802GI	ABBA ASMAU GARKO	COMPUTER
00117749JG	ABDU INUSA YUSIF	COMPUTER
00538973AG	AHMAD MAHMOUD N.	AGRIC
00461295FA	ABDURRAHMAN B. A.	FOOD & NUT.
0012777GJ	ALIYU YUSIF AHMAD	APP. MATHS
00169726AA	HUSSAINI GALI AHMED	APP. MATHS
00489867JA	KAMILU SAIFULLAHI	COMPUTER
00356959BC	ABDULRAHAMAN BELLO	AGRIC
00412745EB	SULAIMAN MUHAMMAD	STATISTICS
00356848DD	USMAN S. MUHAMMED	AGRIC
00356921DC	YUSIF ALI SA'AB	AGRIC
00452240GB	MUHAMMAD T. BELLO	APP. MATHS
00489828II	MUHAMMAD A. USMAN	COMPUTER
00531750EH	HASSANA M. LADAN	FOOD & NUT.
00531751DJ	HUSSAINA M. LADAN	COMPUTER
00489761AE	LAWAL YUSUF LAWAL	P. MATHS
00451417AG	ABDULLAHI S. MUHD.	COMPUTER
00452589JE	AKILU RILWANU	COMPUTER
00489995JA	ISMAILA UMAR	APP. MATHS
00169987FH	MUSA YAHAYA BASHIR	COMPUTER
00357653HF	ZAINAB USMAN H.	AGRIC
00490473GI	RABIU NAMADI MUHD.	COMPUTER
00451053HI	ABDULMUMINI TIJJANI	COMPUTER
00461267IH	ABDULLAHI ADAMU S.	P. MATHS
00489829IA	S. M. ABDULRAHAMAN	COMPUTER
00418573AH	MUHAMMAD SANUSI Y.	COMPUTER
00489626DA	MUSA HALILU MUHD.	COMPUTER
00169908GB	AMIN GEORGE	P. MATHS
00452662JD	SALEH IDRIS MUHD	P. MATHS
00452700FI	GALI SANI DANMALAN	P. MATHS
00452660BC	RAMATU MUHD. HAMZA	COMPUTER
00452699IB	MOH'D JAMILU AMMANI	COMPUTER
00452658JF	JUNAIDU SALEH I.	AGRIC
00452704CG	SANI LAWAN SANI	APP. MATHS
00452683IC	SABIU SANI ABUBAKAR	P. MATHS
00452689DE	YUSIF IBRAHIM S.	P. MATHS
00452693DC	ISAH ISHAQ GARBA	APP. MATHS
00452659IH	AMIR SALISU HAMZA	P. MATHS
00452694CE	FAROUK SALISU	APP. MATHS
00452681AB	ABDULRASHEED UMAR	APP. MATHS
00452657AG	AMINU SALISU LAWAN	COMPUTER
00452644IA	NAFIU IBRAHIM YARO	AGRIC
00452670FJ	ADAMU SABO	STATISTICS
00452561CF	ZAHRADDIN WADA ISA	APP. MATHS
00452666GB	MUSTAPHA BABA BAFFA	P. MATHS
00452665GJ	MANNIR BALA IBRAHIM	AGRIC
00452707AC	ABDUL MAHMOUD I.	AGRIC
00452667FD	NUHU SANI ISAH	COMPUTER
00452697AA	YUSIF SULEIMAN	AGRIC
00452705BI	AHMED KABIRU MUSA	AGRIC
00452701FA	TIJJANI A. ABDULKADIR	STATISTICS
00452695BG	AHMAD RUFAl TUKUR	COMPUTER
00452706BA	ADO KHALID HADIZA	FOOD & NUT.
00452709ID	SHEHU AUWALU	COMPUTER
00452702EC	AHMED SHU'AIBU JIBRIN	AGRIC
00452696AI	ABDULLAHI MOHD H.	FOOD & NUT.
00452703DE	MUKTAR F. HAMZA	P. MATHS
00452680AJ	MOHAMMED Y. SA'IDU	AGRIC
00452691EI	NASIRU ILIYASU UMAR	STATISTICS
00452671FB	ISIIYAKU SHUAIBU A.	COMPUTER
00452690FG	AUWALU UMAR USMAN	AGRIC
00452686FI	MUSTAPHA ADAMU B.	P. MATHS
00452674CH	UMAR FAROOK UMAR	FOOD & NUT.
00452698IJ	ADAMU ADAMU ABDU	COMPUTER
00452687FA	ABUBAKAR B. ISAH	STATISTICS
00452672ED	MOHAMMAD ABDULLAHI	AGRIC
00452679IE	UMAR H. MAIDABINO	STATISTICS
00452682JA	ILIYASU SHARIF AMINU	STATISTICS
00452692EA	AHMAD JA'AFAR	APP. MATHS
00452684HE	IBRAHIM AUWALU A.	AGRIC
00452637AJ	SHAFIU MUHAMMAD I.	COMPUTER
00452655CC	ABDUL'AZIZ IBRAHIM M.	P. MATHS
00452638AB	AUWALU SALISU H.	STATISTICS
00452654DA	FARIDA GARBA SUMAILA	FOOD & NUT.
00452646GE	ABDULRAHMAN Y. M.	APP. MATHS
00452642JG	ABBA SHEHU ADAMU	P. MATHS
00452633EB	ABDULRAHMAN F. F.	AGRIC.
00452641AH	MAMUDA MUHAMMAD T.	AGRIC.
00452640BF	ABDUL MUHAMMAD B.	STATISTICS
00452628FB	DAYYAB IBRAHIM RABIU	COMPUTER
00452664HH	ABDULLAHI ILIYASU G.	AGRIC.
00452643II	RABIU MAINA MADAHI	AGRIC.
00452647FG	AMINU ALIYU MANZO	FOOD & NUT.
00452708JB	ABDULLAHI A. IBRAHIM	FOOD & NUT.
00452648EI	IBRAHIM ALIYU UMAR	COMPUTER
00452631FH	USMAN MUHAMMAD S.	APP. MATHS
00452639JA	SHAMSUDEEN ADAMU	P. MATHS
00452650GC	MUHAMMAD A. SAIDU	COMPUTER
00452656BE	USMAN A. MUHAMMAD	APP. MATHS
00452653DI	SHITU HABIBU	AGRIC
00452652EG	ISA ABUBAKAR MAS'UD	AGRIC.
00452678JC	KABIRU ISA JAFARU	COMPUTER
00452677AD	BASHIR AMINU IDRIS	COMPUTER
00452651FE	AMINU NASIRU BABURA	AGRIC
00452653AJ	SADIQ D. HARUNA	P. MATHS
00452632EJ	MUHD. ABDULLAHI KOTE	AGRIC.
00452676BB	HASSAN A. MUHD.	P. MATHS
00452629ED	ABUBAKAR A. MUSA	P. MATHS
00452668EF	IBRAHIM MUSA ALIYU	AGRIC
00452636BH	ABUBAKAR YAKUBU	P. MATHS
00452627FJ	LAWAL DANJUMA	FOOD & NUT.
00452634DD	NASIRU IBRAHIM RANO	FOOD & NUT.
00452635CF	SURAJO BELLO	AGRIC
00454565JA	SABO SABIU MUHD.	APP. MATHS
00454564AB	SABO AMINU MUHD.	STATISTICS
00452626GH	SANI BATURE AHMAD	COMPUTER
00452625HF	SANI AHMAD HASSAN	COMPUTER
00452624ID	ALIYU MUHAMMAD K.	AGRIC
00452620BI	LAWAN SANI ABDULLAHI	AGRIC
00452661AE	ABDULLAHI ADAMU	FOOD & NUT.
00452669DH	MOH. M. BABAKUSA	P. MATHS
00452744CA	AHMAD NASIRU IBRAHIM	COMPUTER
00452730AF	ZAHARADDEEN LAWAN	P. MATHS
00452729IA	ZAHRADDINI K. G.	FOOD & NUT.
00452748IF	AISHATU MOHD. KASIM	STATISTICS
00452747JD	AMINU UMAR FAROUK	P. MATHS
0452773DF	IBRAHIM GHARZALI	FOOD & NUT.
00452623JB	SABO SALIM BELLO	COMPUTER
00452675BJ	SAGIR YUSIF ISMAIL	COMPUTER
00454568GG	NASIR MOHD BELLO	APP. MATHS
00454562BH	SA'ADATU AMINU ALIYU	FOOD & NUT.
00452619JD	ALHASSAN I. DAWANAU	P. MATHS
00452688EC	SULE MOHD. ZUBAIRU	APP. MATHS
00454566IC	MARYAM AHMAD AKIB	FOOD & NUT.
00452685GG	ABDUL-AZIZ BALA M.	AGRIC
00452663IF	SANI AMINU KABARA	AGRIC
00452645HC	ABDUL Y. ABDULLAHI	COMPUTER
00452649EA	MUSA UMAR	AGRIC
00452732IG	YAZID ABUBAKAR	FOOD & NUT
00452622AC	ABDULLAHI AMMANI F.	AGRIC
00452630GF	ABDULHAKIM MUHD.	STATISTICS
00452746AE	ADO MUSA ABUBAKAR	STATISTICS
00452738DI	MUSA A. MAHMOUD	COMPUTER
00452740FC	HABBU ABDULHAMID	COMPUTER
00452737EG	USMAN MAHMOUD Y.	P. MATHS
00452750AC	ABUBAKAR L. HUSSAINI	AGRIC
00452749HH	DAHIRU IBRAHIM M.	P. MATHS
00454567HE	ABUBAKAR MAGAJI B.	STATISTICS
00452710AI	KABIRU BUHARI	APP. MATHS
00452735GC	NASIRU TIJJANI BADAWI	P. MATHS
00452734HA	SANI DANLADI S.	FOOD & NUT.
00452736FE	MUHAMMAD RABI'U U.	AGRIC
00452745BC	SULEIMAN GARBA	COMPUTER
00452621BA	SAMA'ILA ABDULRAZAK	AGRIC
00452743CI	AMINU MUSA AMINU	APP. MATHS
00452745DG	ALASAN A. SHU'AIBU	P. MATHS
00452741EE	UMAR MUSA PANDA	AGRIC
00452739DA	SA'ADIYA H. GWARZO	COMPUTER
00452731JE	HARUNA USMAN	P. MATHS
00452733HI	UMMA HAMZA AHMAD	COMPUTER
00452728II	MUKTAR DAN'ASABE Y.	AGRIC
00452727JG	SARATU MUHD. HARUNA	COMPUTER
00452726AH	HADIZA JAFARU D.	FOOD & NUT.
00452725BF	MAIMUNA YAHAYA Y.	COMPUTER
00452724CD	MUHD. AUWALU HABIB	STATISTICS

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DAY OF HISTORY

19TH APRIL, 2001

THE EVENT

THE FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY OF THE

Anambra State International Market, Oba



Guest of Honour

Atiku Abubakar, the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Host

Dr. Chinwoke Mbadinuju, Governor of Anambra State

Supported by

Dr. Orji Uzo Kalu, Governor of Abia State; Dr. Chimaroke Nnamani, Governor of Enugu State; Chief Achike Udenwa, Governor of Imo State; and Dr. Sam Egwu, Governor of Ebony State.

Venue

Anambra State International Market Site, Oba

Time

10.00 am prompt.

Come and be eye witness to history!!



Vice President, Atiku Abubakar GCON



Dr Chinwoke Mbadinuju, Governor Anambra State



ANAMBRA STATE GOVERNMENT
- Home for all

(In partnership with)



BUKHAM NIGERIA LIMITED
Strength to build on

B: PRE-DEGREE

1.	IBRAHIM B. GAYA	114	ZAINAB ABUBAKAR MANZO	227.	AUWALU UMAR
2.	HAMISU AHMED	115	UMAR BALA HASSAN	228.	MANSUR ABDO
3.	DAHIRU ALHASSAN	116	MUSA ALHASSAN AUWALU	229.	SANI MUHAMMAD
4.	AMINU USMAN ALHAJI	117	MUHAMMAD SHA'AIBU	230.	FATIMA ZAILANI
5.	RAHAMA BABALE	118	MUHAMMAD HAFIZ SAIDU	231.	NAZIRU YAHAYA
6.	FA'IZA ALI UMAR	119	ZAKARIYA SALE	232.	MURTALA SARKIN FULANI
7.	GARZALI UBA IDRIS	120	SAIDU ISYAKU	233.	HADIZA ABDULSALAM YUSUF
8.	BASHIR BELLO MUHAMMAD	121	MUHAMMAD ATTAYIB	234.	AISHATU ABDULLAH YUSUF
9.	ALIYU ABDULLAH ALIYU	122.	SANI ALIYU SANGO	235.	JAMILA MAMMAN IBRAHIM (BAUCHI)
10.	ALASAN MUTARI SHAIKH	123.	IBRAHIM UMAR	236.	MUSTAPHA HARUNA HASSAN (ADAMAWA)
11.	HARUNA SALEH	124.	JIBRIN BABANGIDA BALA	237.	ABUBAKAR RABI'U
12.	AMINU USMAN MOHAMMED	125.	UMAR FARUK YAKUBU	238.	USMAN ADO JIBRIL
13.	MUSTAPHA IBRAHIM	126.	ABDULLAH ALIYU	239.	IBRAHIM UMAR ALIYU
14.	UMAR ALIYU ABDULLAH	127.	KABIRU LAWAN	240.	SHU'AIBU HARUNA HUSSAIN
15.	KABIRU ADAMU ALHASSAN	128.	SUNUSI SULEIMAN USMAN	241.	BILKISU SHEHU SALE
16.	SHAMSUDDEN HARUNA	129.	UMAR MUSA	242.	SALISU ABDULLAH
17.	NAFIU TIJJANI	130.	DIKKO YUSUF IDRIS	243.	TAHIR A. TOFA
18.	SANI SA'IDU BARAU BICHI	131.	ABUBAKAR IBRAHIM YAKASAI	244.	LAWAN S. ARABU
19.	USMAN YAHAYA BALA	132.	ABDULLAH MOHAMMED BELLO	245.	ADAMU IDRIS
20.	ZANGINA JA'AFARU	133.	MURTALA ABDULLAH	246.	ABUBAKAR ADAMU
21.	HALIMA MOHAMMED LAWAN	134.	BALA G. ABDULRAHMAN (NG)	247.	MUSA UMAR
22.	ABUBAKAR MUSTAPHA ABBA	135.	HAJARA IBRAHIM MOHAMMED	248.	WADA MUHAMMAD ABUBAKAR
23.	IBRAHIM UMAR	136.	ABBA USMAN	249.	ABDULLAH MOHAMMAD SANUSI
24.	MOHAMMED RABIU UMAR	137.	SANI SA'ADU HUSSAIN	250.	KAMSUSI MAMUN BELLO
25.	SHEHU BABA AHMED	138.	MUSTAPHA DAUDA ABUBAKAR	251.	MAIKUDI ADO
26.	ABUBAKAR HAMZA IDRIS	139.	ADAMU ISA ABDULLAH	252.	AMINU GAMBO
27.	FATIMA LAWL ROGO	140.	MU'AWUYA MOHAMMED NA'IBI	253.	IBRAHIM UBA MASOKANO
28.	FA'IZU A S. MOHAMMED	141.	RASHIDU ABUBAKAR BASHIR	254.	BELLO ISA ISA
29.	MUHD. RUFAI ABDULKAREEM	142.	INUWA HASSAN MOHAMMED	255.	ASIYA HABIB HALLIRU
30.	MUHAMMAD BELLO YAKUBU	143.	MUSA GARBA	256.	FATIMA ABDO
31.	ALIYU ABUBAKAR YAHAYA	144.	ANAS SAMINU SALIHU	257.	ALI USMAN
32.	BINTA MOHAMMED (KD)	145.	ABDULKADIR SA'ADU AMINU	258.	AMINU DAUDA AHMAD
33.	RABIU BELLO	146.	MUHAMMAD NASIR MUHAMMAD	259.	BASHIR ABDULLAH DANWAIRE
34.	GARZALI IBRAHIM UMAR	147.	MUSA SHEHU	260.	KHALID BAFFA SANI
35.	SALISU SABI'U JIBRIN	148.	KABIRU MUHAMMAD	261.	ILIYASU IBRAHIM MUHAMMAD
36.	KABIRU MUHAMMAD YUSIF	149.	AHMAD IBRAHIM	262.	ZAINAB BATURE ALIYU
37.	ADAMU SHEHU	150.	NUHU NASIRU IBRAHIM		
38.	AUWALU ALIYU	151.	SULEIMAN MUHAMMAD I		
39.	ALIYU UMAR ABDULLAH	152.	MANNIR LAWAN MUSA		
40.	YAZID SABO MACCIDO	153.	SANUSI ABDULLAH MUHAMMAD (JG)		
41.	NAZIFI USMAN UBA	154.	FANNAMI AHMAD MUHAMMAD		
42.	AISHA LAWAN ABDULLAH	155.	ABDULLAH BALA FURYA (JG)		
43.	MOHAMMED AMINU ABDULLAH	156.	ABDULLAH MUHAMMAD (JG)		
44.	MUSBAHU MUSA AHMED	157.	ASHIRU INUWA ALIYU FAGGE		
45.	ISAH MOHAMMED ALHASSAN	158.	ABBA AHMAD HAMDULLAH		
46.	SALISU MURTALA	159.	SAUDE AHMAD MUHAMMAD		
47.	ABDURRAHMAN UMAR LAWAN	160.	MUSBAHU ABDULLAH BARKUM		
48.	JAMILU MOHAMMED GARBA	161.	SULAIMAN U. HAFIZU		
49.	ABDULMAJID ALIYU YUSUF	162.	NURA BALA ABUBAKAR		
50.	MOHAMMED RABIU UMAR	163.	HALIMA MUHAMMAD		
51.	FAROUK BASHIR	164.	BINTA TIJJANI NUHU		
52.	SHAAIBU SALLAU LAMBA	165.	AHMAD ZAKARI ABDULLAH		
53.	YUSIF SABO	166.	AUWAL IBRAHIM (KT)		
54.	RABIU SALEH SHEHU	167.	ABDULRAHMAN SHEHU ADAMU		
55.	USMAN SHITU	168.	SHEHU HARUNA ABDULLAH		
56.	RABIU AUWALU YAHAYA DAMBATTA	169.	ZAKARI ABDULKARIM		
57.	NUHU LIMAN NUHU	170.	JAMILU YAHUZA KUTAMA		
58.	SABIU SAIDU	171.	YASIR SUNUSI RABI'U		
59.	ABDULKADIR SULEIMAN MUHAMMAD	172.	ABDULKADIR RILWANU MUSA		
60.	AMINU USMAN MUHAMMAD	173.	ABDULLAH HASSAN MUHAMMAD		
61.	HASSAN SHA'AIBU	174.	USAINA YA'U AHMAD		
62.	HUSSAINI ABDULLAH	175.	AUWAL A. ABDULLAH (KD)		
63.	ABDULLAH SHEHU HASHIMU	176.	AMINU LAWL MUHAMMAD		
64.	FIDDAUSI GHALI ISMA'ILA	177.	MUHAMMAD NASIRU DOGARA		
65.	MUSA NUHU MUSA	178.	AMINU LAWAN GARKO		
66.	NASIRU DAUDA	179.	AMINU ABDULRAHMAN		
67.	SANI HAMZA AHMAD	180.	MUSA ZUBAIRU MUSA		
68.	ASHIRU SANI AHMED	181.	HADIYATULLAH MUNKAILA		
69.	HABIBU ALIYU NASIRU	182.	HAFIZU MUNKAILA		
70.	NURA MAHMOUD ZANGO	183.	SURAJO MAGAJI		
71.	SHEHU ABDULLAH GAYA	184.	HAMISU MUHAMMAD ALKASSIM		
72.	AUWALU ALI ADAMU	185.	ABUBAKAR MUHAMMAD		
73.	UMAR BALA SANDA	186.	SANI BALA GWARAM (JG)		
74.	MARIYA HASSAN	187.	GARBA SULEIMAN ABUBAKAR		
75.	HAFSAT HASSAN	188.	ABUBAKAR SHEHU ALIYU		
76.	ABDULLAH SANI AHMAD	189.	ALI UMAR USMAN		
77.	MOHAMMAD A. MURTALA	190.	ALI UMAR IBRAHIM		
78.	INUSA LAWAN	191.	MAHDI BELLO IBRAHIM		
79.	HADIZA ABUBAKAR AHMAD	192.	ADO BALA UMAR		
80.	HABIBU ABUBAKAR	193.	SABI'U YA'U SABIU		
81.	HASSAN IBRAHEEM	194.	NAFISA YUSUF ABDULLAH		
82.	BABANGIDA BASHIR HARUNA	195.	ALIYA ABDULSALAM NUHU		
83.	MOHAMMAD AMINU KABO	196.	ABUBAKAR UMAR ADO		
84.	IMRAN B. MOHAMMED	197.	SANI HARUNA MUHAMMAD		
85.	SANI HARUNA MOHAMMED	198.	YUSUF DANLADI DAN-AZUMI		
86.	ALIYU MUSA ABUBAKAR	199.	JAMILU HAMZA GARBA		
87.	IBRAHIM ABDO ALI	200.	GARBA SULEIMAN ABUBAKAR		
88.	SA'IDU ABDULLAH	201.	NUHU SABO IBRAHIM		
89.	FATIMA TALATU MAHMUD (KW)	202.	ABBATI ABDULMALIK (JG)		
90.	JAMALUDDEN S. MOHAMMED	203.	SULEIMAN MUHAMMAD II		
91.	IBRAHIM BALA MOHAMMED (JG)	204.	HARUNA GARBA (JG)		
92.	ALIYU SULEIMAN	205.	SANI ALIKO (GOMBE)		
93.	ZUBAIRU ABDULLAH MUSA	206.	SHU'AIBU MUKHTAR		
94.	ADO BALA	207.	AUWALU SARKI ABUBAKAR		
95.	ABDULLAH SARKIN YAKI	208.	AMINU ABDULRAHMAN MAHMOUD		
96.	UZAIRU SHUKURANU	209.	KABIRU HANNAFI ABDULLAH		
97.	ABUBAKAR SANI GARBA DISO	210.	BELLO A. D. YAKUBU		
98.	YUSUF DAHIRU	211.	UMAR ABDULLKADIR MUHAMMAD		
99.	SULAIMAN HASSAN (JG)	212.	KAMAL A. LAWL		
100.	MUSBAHU RABIU MUDI	213.	ADAMU AMINU SANI		
101.	SAGIR SULEIMAN	214.	MUKHTAR ABDULLAH WAMBAL		
102.	AUWALU MAGAJI ADAMU	215.	SULEIMAN MURTALA JALLO		
103.	BELLO BASHIR AHMAD	216.	AMINU IYA ABUBAKAR (ADAMAWA)		
104.	MAHADI HAMISU	217.	SARATU MUHAMMAD KOTE		
105.	SANI BALA ILIYASU	218.	MUSA SANI		
106.	MUSA MOHAMMED	219.	UMAR A. ABDULLAH		
107.	SAMIRA MAIKUDI UMAR	220.	ILIYASU IBRAHIM		
108.	BINYAMUNU USMAN UMAR	221.	HASHIMU INUSA ADAM		
109.	MOHAMMED I. MOHAMMAD	222.	MUSA HASSAN		
110.	MUSTAPHA LAWAN ROGO	223.	MUSA ZUBAIRU MUSA		
111.	ABUBAKAR MOHD. ABUBAKAR	224.	ZAHRA'U MOHAMMED FAROUK		
112.	SABO ADAMU MUSTAPHA	225.	FATIMA BUHARI		
113.	UBALE IBRAHIM BELLO	226.	ZUBAIRU AMINU ADO		

Candidates admitted into 100 Level Degree Programmes are to report to the Kano University of Technology, Wudil Campus for registration while Pre-degree Students are to report to the University Liaison Office at CASRS, Airport Road, Kano at 10:00am effective from Monday, 9th April, 2001. All Candidates are required to present their original Credentials (Birth Certificates/Statutory Declaration of Age, SSCE/NECO results and UME Result Slips where applicable) at the point of registration. Candidates are strongly advised to present themselves for registration on the scheduled date.

SIGNED
(LAWAL AGATA GAYA)
For: REGISTRAR



SPORTS



SCOOPS & SNOOPS

The latest news and speculations from the international transfer market

Milan are on the verge of offering Manchester United £40 million for David Beckham, according to reports in Gazzetta dello Sport.

The England International is yet to sign a new contract at Old Trafford, and Milan will offer him a weekly wage of £120,000 to entice him to the San Siro.

Milan are also reported to be keen on Liverpool's Michael Owen with talk of a £30million bid for the England striker, doing the rounds in Italy.

It seems that the road to Turkey is intensifying. With the probable appointment of Fatih Terim as manager at Milan next season, it is being rumoured that Milan will also engage the services of midfielder Hasan Sas and defender Aykel Fatih. Other names being mentioned are the usual Rivaldo and Pierini who have been linked with the club since last year.

Milan are also chasing Rui Costa of Fiorentina, who is leaving the Viola at the end of the season.

The Italian giants are also close to signing Lecce striker Davor Vugrinec. Sources close to the club stated that Ariedo Braida has had several meetings with the player's manager Naletihc.

In turn, Fiorentina will attempt to sign Dejan Stankovic from Lazio as a replacement. However, the Rome club may try and sign the Portugese creative midfielder, by offering the Yugoslav to secure a deal ahead of Milan.

Internazionale have identified Lazio captain Alessandro Nesta as the player required to return the glory days to the club. Although Lazio president Sergio Cragnotti has said that the defender is and never will be for sale, an offer of £40 million plus Marco Materazzi may make the Lazio chairman think again.

Reports in Turin indicate that Edwin Van Der Sar will be joining Barcelona in the



Rui Costa... heading to Milan?

summer. Juventus will use the funds received to purchase Italian number one goalkeeper Gigi Buffon from Parma.

The player, angry that Thuram and Cannavaro are destined to leave, may be prepared to jump ship as well.

Juventus will also offer Uruguayan Fabian Carini as a replacement for Buffon.

Buffon's rival for the national shirt, Francesco Toldo has again been linked with Roma, Lazio and Barcelona. It has been confirmed that the Spanish giants made a bid but Toldo is keen to stay in Italy.

Diego Simeone could be making a return to Internazionale if Lippi takes over as Lazio manager in the summer. Lippi was the manager who sold Simeone to Lazio. Atletico Madrid are also reputed to want their former midfielder back in Spain.

Atalanta, riding high in Serie A, face losing Ivan Pelizzoli. The goalkeeper has been linked with Juventus who see him as an excellent back up for Buffon.

Udinese are chasing Glasgow Rangers' full back Fernando Ricksen. Udinese's scout Ben Hendricks watched the Dutch international during the match against Hibs this weekend.

Cameroon international Samuel Eto'o is a transfer target for Paris-SG. The young striker is currently on loan at Real Mallorca but a move to Paris may interest the player.

Darren Anderton, yet to sign a new contract for Spurs, may join Liverpool in the summer for free under the Bosman Ruling. Liverpool are also reported to be preparing a bid for Fredric Kanoute of West Ham.

His replacement at Tottenham could be West Ham's Frank Lampard who also interests Leeds.



Cannavaro... leaving Parma

Rahman in confident mood

• fights Lewis April 22

American Hasim Rahman is in confident mood ahead of his meeting with Lennox Lewis in Johannesburg on 22 April.

Despite being ranked a lowly 19th in the world Rahman has not seen a great deal to fear in the champion's recent fight.

"I don't think he looked that good in the Tua fight or the Holyfield fight but he won and that is all that's important," said Rahman.

"He looked excellent in the Grant and Botha fights but sometimes you look good and sometimes you don't."

Rahman is confident that his preparations at altitude have gone to plan.

Lewis by contrast has been criticised over his train-

ing programme, and the American believes he will soon find out if the Briton has prepared properly.

"If he's taking it lightly then it's going to be an early night. One thing I have learned in boxing is you can't take anyone for granted. If you start doing that you are going to come up short."

Rahman is also hoping for plenty of support from the South African crowd and he has certainly enjoyed the hospitality he has received.

"The people are really excited. It's a once in a life time chance for them and they have shown their appreciation and hospitality," he said.

"The fight has boosted everyone's morale. They are wonderful hosts."



Hasim "the Rock" Rahman is in confident mood ahead of Sunday's heavyweight fight against Lennox Lewis

Woods: The greatest of all time?

Tiger Woods wrote himself into the history books with victory in the US Masters on Sunday.

The win means Woods is the first golfer to hold all four Majors at the same time.

But the historical significance of his achievement is open to debate.

jors during a career spanning several decades.

Woods is only too aware that his success will always be measured against that record and, like any true champion, his aim is to surpass it.

Harman adds: "Tiger's focus is to win as many Ma-

would concede Tiger's the best player we've seen for a long time," he says.

"Woods has done it in a more competitive environment than Jack.

"His achievement is fantastic."

Former Ryder Cup captain John Jacobs says club technology has had little impact.

"Technology has no bearing on the improvements in today's game.

"Most players today are using sports psychologists to toughen the mind.

"Mental strength is the key. Jack had it and so does Woods."

Woods is rightly lauded

for his ability to maintain focus and composure during critical stages of play, and Jacobs believes this to be the mark of a great.

"Jack's strength was mental too," he says.

"He wasn't as good technically as Tiger and his contemporaries, but he made up for this with a steely nerve."

The Masters title holder now finds his name being mentioned with all-time sporting greats like Muhammad Ali, Sir Donald Bradman, Pele and Pete Sampras.

Whether he achieves a true Grand Slam or not, he can surely be afforded that honour.



Tiger Woods

Is Tiger the greatest of all time?

His coach Butch Harman certainly seems to think so.

"What this young man has achieved has never been done by anyone who walked the planet," he says.

"No one in the history of the game has done it before. He's the only player to hold all four Major championships in one year."

Historians will point to the achievements of Jack Nicklaus, who won 18 Ma-

jors as he can. "He gauges himself on Jack's record."

Crucially, Nicklaus never held all four Major titles at the same time.

David Hill, championship secretary at the Royal and Ancient Club says, "In the 70's, Nicklaus was expected to do it, but he never did."

Hill believes Woods' success speaks for itself.

"Comparing generations is difficult, but even Jack

Real Madrid are world No.1

According to the RSSSF (Record Sport Society Statistics Foundation) an organisation formed in 1994, Real Madrid are currently occupying the first position in a points ranking system which calculates the difficulty of the league in which a club plays and also the difficulty in the International competitions. The Spanish giants garnered 849 points to push Uruguayan side Penarol to second place. Milan in third position on 647 are the first Italian ranking club. Juventus are currently 4th, Inter 16th, Bologna 67th, Torino 68th, Fiorentina 78th and Napoli 86th.

- 1 REAL MADRID (Spain) 849
- 2 PENAROL (Uruguay) 715
- 3 MILAN (Italy) 647
- 4 JUVENTUS (Italy) 620
- 5 BOCA JUNIORS (Argentina) 566
- 6 NACIONAL (Uruguay) 560
- 7 RIVER PLATE (Argentina) 547
- 8 INDIPENDIENTE (Argentina) 524
- 9 AJAX (Holland) 519
- 10 SAN PAOLO (Brazil) 486



We won't accept Bonfrere's resignation -NFA

By Patrick Andrew

The Nigerian Football Association (NFA) will not accept Johannes Bonfrere's resignation should the Super Eagles failed to crush the Lone Stars of Sierra Leone in a crucial World Cup qualifier this weekend.

The NFA second vice chairman, Barrister Uwagbufor Obieniu, said in reaction to Bonfrere's threat to throw in the towel in Freetown, Sierra Leone if the Eagles fail to pound the Lone Stars silly in the match.

Obieniu said in the circumstance Bonfrere intends to exploit to walk out on Nigeria after messing up the country's qualification bid, it would be a disservice to Nigeria to accept such resignation.

"No, Bonfrere won't resign, if he does we shall reject his resignation. We are more interested in his earning, yes justifying the 3 million Naira monthly take-home pay. He must sit down to work and earn his pay not casting dust on us by throwing his resignation letter."

The second vice chairman asserted that "the Dutchman as shown no commitment to work. Neither has he any tangible pro-



gramme nor ready to raise a worthwhile team for the country. In fact, in the last two years, Bonfrere has not demonstrated any resolve to work. He really does not want to work."

Barrister Obieniu further

observed that Bonfrere should have within the about two years he has been with the Eagles discovered at least ten home-based players for the Eagles noting that because of his lukewarm attitude towards building a new squad, he has continued to parade tired legs.

He regretted that in spite of the leverage the NFA has extended to him, Bonfrere has continued to undermine programmes meant to ginger up the Eagles and Nigeria's preparation for the World Cup 2002 qualifiers.

"It is unfortunate that Bonfrere has continued to abuse the fantastic leverage the NFA extended to him, becoming confrontational instead of sitting down to do an honest work," he asserted.



Salau Liman of Kaduna State (right) and Ibrahim Umar of Nasarawa State during their 1st Inter-Zonal Competition for U-14 boys organised by NFA Weekend Soccer Academy at the Ahmadu Bello Stadium, Kaduna... recently. *Pat Joe Ornye*

FRCN, VON, NTA to support NUGA

The Director-General of Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), Voice of Nigeria (VON) and Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), Mr. Eddie Iroh, Mr. Taiwo Alimi and Ben Murray Bruce have pledged to support Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria towards successful hosting of the 18th edition of the Nigerian Universities Games (NUGA), schedule to begin tomorrow.

The Directors-General stated this separately during a courtesy call on them recently by the Dr. Mohammed Umar-led publicity and documentation sub-committee.

In his remarks, the FRCN chief executive, who congratulated ABU for getting the opportunity to host the event, assured that FRCN, as a government establishment, will do its best to ensure perfect success of the competition.

Mr. Iroh, who noted that FRCN is known all over the country for its efforts in spots development will give 30

From Waziri Isa Gwantu, in Zaria

minutes live coverage daily through out the period of the games.

"We will provide all the necessary facilities required to mark the games a perfect success", he said, adding that "doing this, is part of our commitment to spots development in the country".

In his remarks, the Director-General of Voice of Nigeria, Mr. Taiwo Alimi, stressed that, "NUGA, which is known to have contributed greatly in uniting various university youths in the country ought to be supported by all and sundry".

"No doubt, NUGA is a very important national event, therefore, we promise to use all facilities at our disposal to air it adequately using English, Hausa, Swahili, Fulfulde, Ibo, Yoruba, French and Arabic languages", he noted.

Ben Murray Bruce, who was represented by Tonnie Iredia, also assured the NUGA publicity committee of NTA's assistance during the games.

Don't dare me, Mahadi warns SSANU

Members of Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria branch who have threatened to frustrate hosting of the 18th editions of NUGA scheduled to begin tomorrow if their February salary was not paid, have been warned to rescind their decision.

Passing the warning during a press conference over the weekend, Vice Chancellor of the University, Prof. Abdullahi Mahadi, said "anybody or group of people

that would want to frustrated kicking off of the games will have himself to blame."

"The full wrath of the law will be brought to bear heavily on anybody that would want to use opportunity of NUGA to press for his demand. Therefore wish to warn that instead of daring us, whoever that has any genuine claim over what he considers as his legitimate right must follow the laid down rule of law" he warned further.

The Vice Chancellor who maintained that his administration is committed to pay-

ing all staff what is due to them from the federal government, however warned that he would not condone any act of indiscipline capable of dragging the hard earned name of the university into the mud.

On the February salary in question, the Vice Chancellor emphasised "that the salary was with had based on the "no work no pay" policy of the Federal Government.

He however, said that whenever the institution's governing council decided that the money should be paid, he will not hesitate to do so.

Police warn against disruption of NUGA festival

The Assistant Commissioner of Police in Charge of Zaria Area Command, Alhaji Suleiman Lawal, has warned that the Police will not take it lightly with any person or industrial union that attempts to disrupt the forthcoming NUGA festival at the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria.

Speaking with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) at the weekend in Zaria, Lawal said the police had deployed detachments of mobile policemen to complement the efforts of other security agencies, as part of measures to ensure peace throughout the period of the games.

He dismissed earlier threats to disrupt the games by members of SSANU, ABU chapter, saying that he had already communicated to members of the union on the implications of their threat.

Lawal said that SSANU members had no moral right to carry out their threat, since

NUGA was a national sports festival, which should not be disrupted because of a local industrial dispute between SSANU and ABU Management.

"The Police will protect the lives and property of all peace-loving citizens, including all the athletes coming for the Nuga games in Zaria," he emphasised.

He therefore appealed to all unions that had been having problems with the man-

agement of ABU, Zaria "to find more civilized means of resolving their crisis, rather than adopting a confrontational approach".

Meanwhile, a meeting summoned by the management of ABU, Zaria with the executive members of SSANU over the on-going industrial dispute could not hold, following the failure of Ssanu members to attend last Thursday.



Nigerian female athletes during the Nkoyo Ibori U-20 tourney. Some of them will be competing in this year's NUGA games.

Kwara Assembly investigates transfer scam

From Abdul Laro, in Ilorin

The Kwara State House of Assembly has ordered an enquiry in to the transfer scandal of Peter Toye, a former player of the Kwara United Football Club, allegedly sold Egyptian Club, El-Medina FC for 15,000 dollars in 1999.

Consequent upon a petition written by Mr. Jide Fashikum a journalist with the Anchor Newspaper, through the Speaker of members of the House of Assembly, a four-men ad-hoc committee has been set up to look into the transfer scandal with the aim of ensuring that justice was done.

Hon. Bisi Alolagbe urged the House to commence work immediately recalling that during the first anniversary of the House, Kwarans were promised that an ad-hoc committee would be set up to look into the Peter Toye's transfer scandal though nothing had happened after two years.

Members of the ad-hoc committee include the deputy speaker, Honourable M.S. Oni, as chairman, Hon. Abdulkareem, Mr. Olayiwola Ayinde, and Hon. Jafar Bio Ibrahim.

NUGA games participants arrive Zaria

Participants in the 18th edition of the Nigerian Universities games (NUGA), tagged "ABU-Nuga 2001", to be flagged off tomorrow at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria have started arriving for the games, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports.

A contingent from the Federal University of Technology, Akure was the first set of participants to arrive.

NAN observed that the early arrivals were seen inspecting equipment and facilities meant for the competitions at the stadium complex in ABU, Zaria.

When contacted, the directors of sports at the University, Dr. Farouq Haruna, confirmed the arrival of the athletes from FUTA, Akure, saying that contingents from Port Harcourt had also arrived for the games.

Meanwhile, owners of restaurants, food vendors as well as petty traders have started making brisk business in Samaru and Kongo areas of Sabon-Gari in the Zaria Local Government Area, following the arrival of athletes for the games.

About 36 Universities will be participating in the games, which will involve up to 5,000 athletes.

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Sweden's Annika Sorenstam hits the ball out of the sand on the first hole of the LPGA tournament in Los Angeles... last Thursday. Pix AP



Los Angeles Lakers' Derek Fisher, left, battles for the loose ball against Minnesota Timberwolves' Chancey Billups during their NBA clash at the Staples Centre in Los Angeles... last Thursday. Pix AP

Four states scramble to host Eagles

Stories by Patrick Andrew

Four States are deadlocked in battle royal over the hosting right of the make or break Nigeria, Liberia World Cup 2002 qualifier next month.

The states, Kano, Kaduna, Rivers and Bauchi are at each other's throat over who should be awarded the right to have the all important game played in her domain.

However, while three of the States groped in desperation to win the right, the Nigerian football Association (NFA) has already sold the right to the Rivers State government at the cost of 4 million naira even as it maintained contacts with the rest

that the race was still open.

The NFA had given Kaduna state in particular, the hope that the hosting right will be awarded to them. Secretary-General of the association, Dr Tijjani Yusuf, we learnt, had given Kaduna State the holistic impression that the hosting right was theirs for the asking while equally wooing Kano state to prepare the ground to host the crucial World Cup qualifier.

Trustsports learnt though that whereas the NFA would have favoured Kaduna state but it doubted the ability of the state

to guarantee maximum patronage and support for the Eagles.

But the NFA did not doubt the maximum support the Eagles stand to garner in Kano state except the violate nature of soccer fans there remains a constant ache while it was uncertain where the pendulum would swing should Bauchi wins the hosting right.

Trustsports further learnt that whereas other bidders did not show enough resolve by way of financial commitment, Rivers state which had hosted the Nigeria/Sudan match, maximizing enough windfall, quickly approached the near

insolvent NFA with a paltry 4 million naira to bankroll the match.

"Since the Rivers state was the first to match its demonstrated interest with fund no matter how paltry, the FA had no alternative but to accept while awaiting any of the three others to come up with an appreciable offer," a source said.

But the NFA has already committed itself to Rivers state by officially communicating to it that it has been awarded the hosting right. This has put paid to the contention of other bidders to host the match.

Eagles hit camp today

Yobo Joseph and Karibe Ojigwe, the new Super Eagles call-up for the match against the Lone Stars are to arrive the country to begin preparation for the crucial encounter today.

Besides, Derby County's sweeper, Taribo West, Ifeanyi Udezue, Ike Shorunmu, and Victor Agali's replacement John Otaka are also expected to hit camp for the match this afternoon.

The players are to join Tijani Babangida, Garba Lawal, Yakubu Aiyegbeni, Emeka Ifejiagwa and Peterside Idah for tutorials from Johannes Bonfrere, who was last week ejected by the management of Eko Hotels owing to the NFA's

indebtedness to it. The team are to camp for three days in Lagos before jetting out to Freetown for Saturday's decider.

Professor Nomau's travails, written & illustrated by Bulama Mustapha

