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NEWS

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Senator Haruna Abubakar is dead



The late Senator Haruna Abubakar

The former deputy Senate President, Senator Haruna Abubakar is dead. He died yesterday at Wellington Hospital in London, United Kingdom at the age of 52. His death came after a protracted illness.

According to a family source who wished to remain anonymous, arrangements are being made to convey his remains back home for burial according to Islamic rites as

soon as possible.

About the middle of February, there was some concern over the state of health of the late Senator Abubakar. Reports at the time indicated that as a result of the seriousness of his condition, he was flown to England where he was admitted at the London hospital.

Prior to that, the unsatisfactory state of wellbeing of the former

Managing Director of the Pipelines Products Marketing Company (PPMC) had warranted his being checked into the National Hospital, Abuja.

Information reaching *Daily Trust* at the time indicated that the former deputy Senate President had suffered a stroke. His family took the decision to send him abroad when it became obvious that he was not responding favourably to

medication.

The late Senator Abubakar served in the senate from 1999 to 2003. He was deputy to the late former Senate President, Dr. Chuba Okadigbo. He was also Attorney-General and Commissioner of Justice in the old Plateau State.

The late Senator Haruna Abubakar is survived by his wife Maryam H. Abubakar and children.



The Chief Imam of Ilorin, Alhaji Mohammed Bashir Fulani (middle), former Military President, General Ibrahim Babangida, Justice Salihu Modibbo Alfa Belgore, Governor Bukola Saraki of Kwara State, the Aare Musulumi of Yoruba, Alhaji Arisekola Alao and others during the Janaiza prayer for the late Major General Abdulkareem Adisa at Ilorin, Kwara State ...yesterday

Presidential system best for Nigeria — Obasanjo insists

By Reuben Yunana, State House Correspondent

President Olusegun Obasanjo yesterday insisted that the presidential system of government was the best for Nigeria but said the ongoing political reform conference and subsequent constitutional reforms are geared to give the country a unique presidential system.

Speaking during the monthly presidential media

chat yesterday, Obasanjo said "no two presidential systems in the world are the same."

He said it was wrong for people to say that premiers in the first republic had more powers than state governors now have, adding: "the governors today are more powerful than the premiers of those days who had governors in addition to their own premierships. Today the power of governor and premier subsists in one person. There is nothing a premier could do that a governor cannot do today."

He said it was wrong for Nigerians to compare the Nigerian federation and presidential system of government with that of America because of what he called differences in historical perspectives.

"In America, the states were in existence before they agreed to come together. In Nigeria, the country was in existence, we decided to break up. You must bear that in mind," Obasanjo said and likened the position of Nigeria with that of India.

He said it was wrong for people to castigate him for

Confab reconvenes today

By Habeeb I. Pindiga, Political Reporter

Following a week's recess, the national political reform conference is due to reconvene today at the International Conference Centre, Abuja.

The conference adjourned Monday last week, shortly after President Olusegun Obasanjo's inaugural address. The recess was to give time for the secretariat to fully prepare and working documents made available to delegates.

It was not clear yesterday evening whether the secre-

General Adisa buried in Ilorin

From Abdulrazaq Adebayo, Correspondent, Ilorin

A record crowd of admirers, political associates, relations and prominent Nigerians including former Nigerian president, retired General Ibrahim Babangida and Governor Bukola Saraki of Kwara state, Chief of Staff to President Obasanjo, retired General Abdullahi Mohammed attended the *fidau* of late General Abdulkarim Adisa, who was buried at his GRA residence in Ilorin yesterday.

Chief Imam of Ilorin, Alhaji Mohammed Bashir, assisted by his deputy Alhaji Abdullahi Hameed led the *fidau* prayer of General Adisa held at 12 noon.

Body of late retired General Adisa was flown into the Ilorin international airport

at 10.05 a.m. in an aircraft marked EAS FN BEY led by retired General Raji Rasaki, former military governor of Lagos and General Tajudeen Olarenwaju and the Chief Medical Director of Unilorin

Teaching Hospital, Dr Sulaiman Kuranga.

Moments after the corpse in a casket neatly wrapped with a sack was discharged from the aircraft, a Peugeot station wagon ambulance registered FG 16 H12 of the Unilorin Teaching Hospital moved in to convey the body

to his GRA residence, amidst chanting of *Lallallahu* by the teaming crowd waiting to witness the arrival of the body of General Adisa.

The security men on duty had a hectic time controlling the crowd as people struggled to catch a glimpse of the

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Nenadi Usman queried over confab funding

By Ahmed I. Shekarau, Group Business Editor

The Presidency has queried the Minister of State for Finance, Mrs. Nenadi E. Usman, over a media report credited to her last week saying that the federal government is drawing the N981 million required to fund the on-going National Political Reform Conference (NPRC) from the Consol-

idated Revenue Fund (CRF) account.

The minister of state for finance, Mrs. Usman, was reported last week Monday by *Punch* newspaper to have said that the federal government will source money to

fund the conference from the CRF, which belongs to it only (as a tier of government) and not from the Federation Accounts Allocation Committee (FAAC) as widely speculated. The FAAC's funds belong to the three tiers of government in the federation.

Specifically, *Punch* in its

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News

Presidency *Contd. from Pg 1*

edition of Monday, February 21, 2005, reported Nenadi Usman as saying: "It is not true that the FAAC is providing funds to fund the national political reform conference."

"You will recall that the President had gone to the National Assembly for approval of the sum of N932 million for the conference which was not approved."

The federal government is going to the Consolidated Revenue Fund, which is the federal government's account in the Central Bank of Nigeria," she said.

Daily Trust gathered from sources that the news report has generated a lot of controversy as the appropriation committees of the Upper and Lower chambers of the National Assembly have begun investigations, trying to ascertain the veracity of the report with a view to querying the presidency over the matter.

It is illegal for the federal government to draw from the CRF and spend on any project or programme that is not appropriated, even though the account belongs to it as a tier of government.

A dependable source in the presidency told *Daily Trust* last week that on the basis of the news report, "the minister (Nenadi) has been issued a query, asking her to explain why she made that public statement."

The source disclosed further that "that report embarrassed the presidency, particularly now that we

understand that members of the Senate and House of Representatives, most of whom have not hidden their opposition to the confab, are trying to probe the Presidency, trying to find proof that the money was drawn without appropriation".

When contacted by *Daily Trust* over the issue weekend, the chief press secretary to the minister of state for finance, Ogaziechi C. Theodore, said "at no time did Madam (Nenadi) say throughout the interview session she had after the FAAC meeting of that day (Friday, February 18, 2005), that the government was going to draw the confab's money from the Consolidated Revenue Fund", stressing that "he (the *Punch* reporter) was not the only journalist that interviewed Madam. Other reporters, including your man (*Daily Trust* reporter) were there (at the interview session), why didn't any journalist report that angle except him?"

Similarly in a press statement he signed and issued on Saturday, the chief press secretary to the minister of state reiterated his denial, saying that "the information was wrong and misleading".

According to the two-page press statement: "It is true that on the 18th of February, 2005, the Honourable Minister of State for Finance, Mrs. Nenadi Usman granted a press interview to Finance Correspondents from the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)*, *Daily Trust*, the *Sun*

and the *Punch* newspapers where she summarised the outcome of the Federation Accounts Allocation Committee (FAAC) meeting.

"It is also true that a question relating to where the federal government would source funds for the National Political Reform Conference was asked by the same

reporter (of *Punch*). It is also true that the Honourable Minister responded noting that as long as FAAC is concerned, the FG had no absolute control over the funds and as such cannot source funds from this purse.

"However, she explained that the FG has a range of avenues where it can source

for funds for its projects, which included the Consolidated Fund," stressing that "at no time did the Honourable Minister categorically state that the funds for the Conference will be or has been sourced from the consolidated fund".

Section 80 (2) of the 1999 constitution says: "No monies shall be withdrawn

from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation except to meet expenditure that is charged upon the fund by this constitution or where the issue of those monies has been authorised by an Appropriation Act, Supplementary Appropriation Act or an Act passed in pursuance of Section 81 of the Constitution".



The outgoing president of Africa Export/Import Bank (Afreximbank), Mr Chris Edordu (left) and the Managing Director of Allstates Trust Bank, Mr Ebi Timitimi (right) appending their signatures on documents during the signing ceremony of a \$20 million discount facility for Allstates in Cairo, Egypt, last week.



Governor Joshua Dariye of Plateau State, receiving relief materials from the Minister of Women Affairs, Obong Rita Akpan when she visited the state recently.

Presidential system *Contd. from Pg 1*

supporting presidential system of government for Nigeria. "I talked about presidentialism and some people went to war."

Look, there is no two presidential types of government in the world that are exactly the same," Obasanjo said.

Once Nigerians decided they want a presidential system, then they must decide on what type they want, he said.

"Ghana is a presidential system and picks his ministers from the parliament. The ministers have the right to go and address the parliament at will. South Africa is a presidential system. The president is elected by the parliament and he is a member of the parliament. The French and American systems are also different. So we must decide what is good for ourselves," President Obasanjo emphasised.

He said Nigerians had devised, "a particular system for ourselves to be able to meet with our peculiarities," he emphasised.

On the issue of the low representation of women in the list of conference delegates, President Obasanjo blamed state governors for the anomaly.

"I sympathise with the position of the women. The governors must say if the non inclusion of women among their delegates was an oversight. They owe the women an apology," he said.

On the forthcoming national census, President Obasanjo said he was distressed that "while you are trying to blunt the edge of religion and ethnicity so that we sharpen the edge of Nigerianess, the same people who want us to blunt this edge for population census are the ones who are sharpening it for representation."

Describing the situation as unfortunate and contradictory, Obasanjo pointed out: "when you go out of here (Nigeria) the thing they ask you is where are you from? And you reply I am a Nigerian. They don't ask you if you are Ibo or Yoruba."

casket, while those who could not enter the residence hung on buildings to witness the ceremony.

Speaking to newsmen after the burial, President Babangida said Adisa would be remembered as a loyal person adding that "the country has lost one of its very fine officers and a patriot who lived his life providing services to the nation."

General Babangida who described Adisa's death as a necessity said "we expect everybody to eventually die at the end of the day."

In his reaction, the chairman of the anti-corruption commission, retired Justice Mustapha Akanbi said General Adisa's death was a big loss to everybody and the country considering

General Adisa *Contd. from Pg 1*

what he has been able to do for the community.

Justice Mustapha said his scholarship scheme for the needy in the society had impacted on the people and hoped that the legacies he left behind would be cherished in good memories.

"On that very day he was travelling, we were together in Ogbomoso and we sat side-by-side. He left late in the afternoon. I did not know that was the last I was seeing General Adisa and we had a lot of jokes before he left," Justice Mustapha recounted.

Also reacting, the former Nigerian Ambassador to Lebanon, Alhaji Abdulwahab Adeyi who described Gen-

eral Adisa as a kind, generous and progressive gentleman, said the Ilorin community would miss him dearly.

While praying to Allah to grant him eternal rest, Ambassador Adeyi said what he has contributed to the state and Nigeria would continue to be his legacy.

Former governor of Kwara state, Alhaji Mohammed Lawal, who described General Adisa as a close friend and a major pillar of Ilorin community and the state, prayed for sustenance of the members of the family.

Among personalities who witnessed the *fidau* were retired Brig-General David Mark, retired Major General David Jemibewon, retired

General Lawrence Onoja, Mr Barnabas Germade, former PDP national chairman, former Chief of Army Staff, Lt-General Victor Malu, Oba Timi of Ede, Governors of Niger and Abia states, Alhaji Abdulkadir Kure and Orji Uzor Kalu and Walin Ilorin, Alhaji Akanbi Oniy-angi, Dr Alimi AbdulRazaq, and minister for communication, Chief Cornelius Adebayo.

Others include the Chief Justice of Kwara state, Justice Timothy Oyeyipo, Grand Khadi of the state Sharia Court of Appeal, Justice Mutalib Hambali, former governor of Kwara State, retired General David Bami-gboye, the former governor of Bauchi and Osun states, retired Colonel Theophilus Bamigboye and former IG, Chief Sunday Adewusi.

Confab *Contd. from Pg 1*

tariat was ready. But an official at the centre told *Daily Trust* that by this morning, all would be set for smooth sessions of the conference.

Daily Trust could not, however, confirm whether all the working documents were produced for distribution to participants.

Obasanjo had said that the conference would be provided with copies of the constitution, report of the presidential panel on constitution review and the Oputa panel report, among others.

Some of the documents were distributed last Monday, but the Oputa panel report was not made available before the recess.

The conference is expected to reconvene in the former chamber of the House of Representatives.

Delegates complained last week that the Africa Hall, venue of the maiden session was not proper for sittings because of poor lighting and arrangement of seats. Chairman, Niki Tobi, promised then that the venue would shift.

When *Daily Trust* visited the new venue yesterday evening, officials were still putting the place in order.

A notice was seen pasted on the entrance to the chamber, which informed delegates that "sitting not necessarily according to delegation, free sitting is allowed."

This means that contrary to sitting order according to delegations as observed at the first day, today's resumption would feature delegates sitting freely.

The 660-seater chamber was well-lit as at yesterday, but only three microphones were provided in front of three of the five rows.

Some delegates were also seen making inquiries at the protocol desk.

News

Hajj 2005: Jigawa pilgrims board denies shoddy deals

The Jigawa State pilgrims welfare board has denied any shoddy deals in respect of the 1000 sponsored pilgrims to the holy land.

In a press conference addressed by the executive secretary of the board, Alhaji Abdulkadir A. Maje, the board described as false, allegations that the board had fictitiously compiled names of pilgrims to be sponsored and subsequently sold their seats to interested pilgrims.

According to the board's secretary, the state government had initiated the sponsorship to enable beneficiaries who could not pay for themselves have access to the fulfilling of the fundamentals of Islam.

He said a total of 1,000 pilgrims were sponsored by the state and these were drawn from NGOs, medical staffs, security agencies, politicians, associations, the Ulama traditional and local government councils as well as many others from across the country.

Alhaji Maje said the rationale was to assist the

By Hassan A. Kaforfi,
Correspondent (Dutse)

less privileged in the discharge of God's religious obligation.

He added that all relevant passports, visas etc were processed, payment of accommodation and royalties made including payments of US \$500 to all the pilgrims.

Alhaji Maje said although some isolated cases of 120 of the 1,000 people scheduled to travel could not due to problems associated with visa and absenteeism during distribution of documents as well as mix-up of names, the entire operations was successful.

"It is on record that none of the pilgrims spent more than 12 days in the holy land," he added.

The executive secretary said the issue of Hajj sponsorship to Mecca and Israel is an annual event all governments carry out, adding that "it is quite unfortunate that some people are out to cause mischief in an operation that deserves commendation."

He equally challenged

those accusing the Jigawa state government to fear Allah as whatever they say will be judged in the hereafter.

In any case, however, he said expenditures are undertaken by governments in the field of sport jamborees, political gatherings like the national dialogue, burials and other ceremonies."

The executive secretary also challenged the accusers of misconception and mischief which he said cannot deter the good intention of government.

It could be recalled that governor Ibrahim Turaki has since announced the cancellation of further Hajj sponsorship and announced government's decision to re-channel the funds being used for the provision of infrastructures.

President Olusegun Obasanjo says that troops will be sent to Somalia and Cote d'Ivoire to restore peace and security as a responsibility to the African Union (AU) and Africa as a continent.

The president who was speaking at the grand finale of the "Exercise New Dawn" organised by the Nigerian Army to re-professionalise its troops, said Nigeria has a responsibility to maintain peace in the region as a big brother to other African countries.

Obasanjo said no meaningful development can take place where peace is absent and urged the troops to spread their tentacles and equip themselves in non war operations for the sake of humanity.

He added that in a democratic dispensation, every unit has a responsibility to carry out. In the army, its business is that of security and defence which includes

AU sets to restore peace in Somalia, Cote d'Ivoire

By Ruby Rabi,
Defence Correspondent

providing peace where it is absent and where conflict is rife.

He urged the soldiers not to concentrate on any war operations but also endeavour to be active in non war situations and how to handle refugees which he described as paramount in Africa.

According to him, Nigeria's job is not to wage war but to maintain peace and security. That is why we have troops even in the Middle East.

Military formations to be

decongested of explosives—General Azazi

The general officer commanding (GOC), I mechanized division of the Nigerian Army, Major General Andrew Azazi, yesterday said all military formations across the country will

be decongested of explosives to avert future occurrences of explosion.

Major General Andrew Azazi who spoke to *Daily Trust* via telephone said most arms and ammunitions will be relocated to the National Armoury in Kachia, Kaduna state.

Azazi said most of the armoury that exploded have reached their expiry period since they have not been put to use.

He explained that if military exercises were being conducted regularly, these explosives would have been put to use instead of being stored for so long.

He continued, "after the Ikeja cantonment bomb blast which left many people dead and properties destroyed, the military removed all explosives and put them into bunkers which are stored underground. This mechanism helped to reduce the damages and hindered it from reaching residential areas.

The GOC commended the swift response of the office and soldiers of the emergency unit of the army whom he said intervened in the crisis when the alarm was sounded.

Meanwhile, the federal government has directed that all expired ammunition be destroyed to stem further bomb explosions.

The order came on the heels of the bomb blast that rocked Dalet barracks, Kaduna on Wednesday while the federal government and the senate have set up committees to investigate what set the bombs off.

The defence minister, Engineer Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso, revealed that the service of the armoury specialists to handle the job of evacuating all the country's armoury to the National Armoury in Kachia, Kaduna state has been procured.



Eng. Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso

Plateau creates 29 DAs

Plateau has set modalities for the creation of 29 Development Areas (DA's) out of 16 of its 17 local government areas.

Only Jos North is left out of the exercise that has created discontentment in some quarters.

Government's spokesman and information commissioner, Yakubuh Dati, could not be reached for explanations on the omission of Jos North from the list submitted during the week to the state House of Assembly for approval.

It could however, be recalled that Jos North local government elections were not conducted last year for what the government described as security reasons. While the 16 other local councils have democratically elected chairmen and councilors, Jos North's still being supervised by a sole administrator.

According to the list submitted by Governor Joshua Dariye to the state House of Assembly which has concluded public hearing on the matter, Bokkos, Pankshin and Shendam LGA's top with three proposed DA's each, while Bassa, Jos South, Qua'an Pan and Wase have two each.

The other six LGA's, Jos East, Barakin Ladi Ringimi, Lantang North, Lantang South and others have proposal for one each.

The list shows that Pengana and Miango with headquarter at Jengre and Kwall respectively; Rabob from Barakin Ladi with headquarters at Rabob; Giring and Jos-South East from Jos South with headquarters at Giring and Kwang respectively; Jos South East

From Jubril Daudu,
Regional Editor (Jos)

from Jos East with headquarters at Zanadi and Ganawuri from Riyom with headquarters Ganawuri.

Bokkos has three DA's at Walshak, Daffo and Sikyan with headquarters at Horrop, Daffo and Sikyan respectively Dogon Ruwa and Khintang with headquarters at Dogon Ruwa and Yugur respectively will be created out of Kamam LGA; Gindiri and Mangum out of Mangum LGA while Pankshin North, Jing and Longkaf with headquarters at Jingkaf will be created out of Pankshin LGA.

From Kanka LGA will be created Angar and Kanka South DA's with headquarters at Amper and Manok respectively; Gwamtim with headquarters at Gazum from Langtang North; Langtang South that with headquarters at Judadi South and Doroki, Puanka and Nshar with headquarter at Mankaaf, Poediet and Lukwapjur respectively from Shandam LGA.

Qua'am and Nama DA's will be created out of Qua'an Pan with headquarters at Kwande and Namu respectively, Wase has Bashar and Wase South with headquarters at Bashar and Kadurke respectively, Mikang has Garkawa with headquarters at Garkawa.

Already, the proposed creation of the development area in Kanam LGA has divided the Bogglom people in the area. While a group, concerned Bogghom citizens have kicked against the creation, preferring to remain with the present emirate system under the Emir of Kanem, the Bogghom Development Association is in firm support of it.



Governor Kalu of Abia State paid a courtesy call on the former President of Nigeria, Alhaji Shehu Shagari for his 80th birthday at his house in Sokoto.

Shagari bares mind on birthday celebration

The first executive president of Nigeria, Alhaji Aliyu Shehu Usman Aliyu Shagari said birthday celebrations is not in their history, religion and character, but people across the country forced him to celebrate his 80th birthday.

He was speaking over the weekend in Sokoto while

From Abdulfatai Abdulsalami,
Correspondent (Sokoto)

receiving Alhaji Isyaku Ibrahim who was at his residence to deliver a goodwill message from Dr. Alex Ekwueme.

In his words "I don't want to celebrate but people forced me especially *Daily* and *Weekly Trust* newspapers,

IBB holds secret talks with Lawal

Former military president, retired General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida, yesterday held secret talks with former governor of Kwara state, Alhaji Mohammed Lawal.

Daily Trust learnt that shortly after the Fidu of late General Abdulkarim Adisa at his GRA residence, both men drove out for Tanke area of Ilorin where a brief meeting was held before proceeding via admiralty Villa, residence of Mohammed Lawal back to the Ilorin international airport.

Political watchers observed that with the demise of General Adisa, a strong advocate and campaigner of the mission for the second coming of general Babangida as president of Nigeria in 2007 he may be looking for a replacement to fill the vacuum created by the death of Adisa.

The demise of the former minister of works and housing has created a major upset for the Project 007 mission which General Adisa was championing as the national coordinator until his death last week in London.

News

NATIONAL CONFAB... NATIONAL CONFAB... NATIONAL CONFAB

Southern govts want true federalism

Governors from Southern states of the federation at the weekend in Lagos urged the national political reform conference to ensure that true federalism is entrenched in the constitution, even as they called for the appointment of an Accountant General for the federal government.

The governors who called for a new revenue sharing formula, also insisted on



Gov. Tinubu

From Olumide Bajulaiye
Correspondent Lagos

the unity of the country.

The summit also called on the federal government to comply with the Supreme Court judgment which directed it to pay the withheld local government allocations of Lagos state.

The call forms part of the decisions reached at the end of the 9th Summit of the southern states governors of Nigeria, held in Lagos last Friday.

Addressing newsmen shortly after the meeting, host governor, Bola Tinubu said the summit welcomed the on-going national conference but insisted that true federalism should be ensured.

While insisting on national unity, the forum urged members of the conference to also ensure that true federalism is entrenched in all fac-

Toby charges Ijaws on confab

The deputy governor of Rivers state, Sir Gabriel Toby, has called on the Ijaw people to use the opportunity of the national political reform conference to put their case to the nation.

Speaking at the 2005 Ijaw national day celebrations in Yenogoa, Bayelsa state, the deputy governor said only "consistently persuasive, constructive engagement and dialogue have proved acceptable in addressing grievances."

"We do not need to destroy what we have to get what we want. The conference affords the Ijaw ethnic nationality the chance to make our case", he said.

To further strengthen the ideal of the Ijaw nation, Sir Toby advised Ijaw elders against abdicating their responsibilities to the youths, noting that only a deliberate effort from Ijaw people to close ranks, reduce inter personal and community conflicts would keep the Ijaw dream focused in the Nigerian nation.

In his speech at the occasion, the governor of Bayelsa state, Dr. Dipriye Alamiyesiegha, said the impact of the grievances of the Ijaw people has been felt in the nation as the leadership has never failed to draw attention to issues affecting the area.

Chief Alamiyesiegha who lauded the leadership of the congress for repositioning the image of the Ijaw people, said going by the quality of appointments made so far in government, it

From Ikenna Emeka
Okpani, Bureau Chief, Port Harcourt

would be incorrect to say that Ijaw people are marginalised today in the country.

He enjoined Ijaw people serving in various capacities to regard their appointment as a service to the people and urged them to remain upright.

We have no confidence in Sokoto delegates-PDP

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), in Sokoto state has said it has no confidence in the delegates from the state to the on-going national political confab.

The vote of no confidence was passed by the chairman of the PDP in the state, Alhaji Muhammed Arzika Tureta, in an interview with *Daily Trust* in Sokoto.

According to him, the PDP was not consulted on the list of delegates and expressed shock why members of the PDP would be isolated about an issue that was very important to the people of the state.

"We thought the PDP is a stakeholder in the state and should be consulted to give its own input on issues like this but we were shocked when we heard in the news that the state delegates have been selected without our input," he said.

The former member of the House of Representatives claimed that out of the six delegates from the state, perhaps only Am-

ets of the constitution.

Governor Tinubu said that the summit stressed the urgent need for the appointment of an Accountant General for the federal government.

The officer's designation according to the governors, would be different from that of the Accountant General of the federation.

According to them, the latter would be better placed to take care of the interest of the states and local government councils by confirming the quantum of revenue collected and the correct application of the revenue allocation formula.

Explaining the

governor's call for a new revenue sharing formula, Tinubu said they feel that the current revenue formula was not fair to the states in view of the additional responsibilities entrusted on them to fund primary education.

"The summit recommended the following revenue allocation formula: federal government-48.47 percent; state government-36.777 percent; and local government-14.753 percent.

Governors who attended the summit and ratified the decisions are: Bola Tinubu of Lagos; Lucky Igbinedion, Edo; James Ibori, Delta; Segun Agagu, Ondo; Achike Udenwa, Imo; Ayo Fayose, Ekiti; Chris Ngige Anambra, and DSP Alamiyegessgha Bayelsa.

Plateau people demand posthumous pardon for 1976 coupists

A one-day interactive session at the weekend for Plateau state delegates to the national political reform conference ended with a demand by Plateau citizens for posthumous pardon for those executed over the military coup.

Among those present at the session which had in attendance a cross section of the people in the state included governor Joshua Dariye, the Gbong Gwom Gwam Jos, Da Victor Pam, Chief Solomon Lar and other members of the Plateau state delegates to the national confab, former secretary to the Plateau state government, veteran journalists, Mr. Gideon Bande, Ambassador Bagudu and Jonah Madugu, former general manager, Plateau Publishing Company. Mr. Gideon Bande, decried the 1976 executive of military officers from the middle belt many of whom were citizens of Plateau,

From Rakiya Mohammed
Correspondent, Jos

and stressed that although this had been justified by the government of the-day, "it is the contention of our people that the law under which they were tried was contentions and sought to inflict vendetta rather than justice."

He maintained that the practice of double standards, of justice in Nigeria should stop it the people are to regard each other as common citizens.

Barde stressed that though those executed are dead "one cannot argue their case, we demand that they too be pardoned posthumously".

Others who spoke at the forum called for compensation for its land that was by years of mining used for the development of the nation, even as they urged the delegates to remind those crying for resource control that the people in this part of the country were denied control of their resources when solid minerals was the mainstay of the nation's economy.

They also made case for the restructuring of the local government areas in the country to give room for equity, while also demanding identity for middle

JNI cautions CAN sec. gen. over representation

Over 1,000 Ulamas and Imams under the umbrella of the Jama'atul Nasril Islam (JNI) have cautioned the secretary-general of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Elder Saidu Dogo, over his unguarded utterances and comments to justify the lop-sided delegates composition to the national political reform conference on the spurious ground of a christian majority population.

According to a communiqué issued at the end of a one day meeting of various Islamic organisations

From Aliyu Haruna,
correspondent (Kaduna)

held under the umbrella at JNI, signed by Mallam Umar Zaria Ahmed, public relations officer of JNI at Arewa House, Kaduna, declared that Elder Dogo is out of touch with reality, saying that he is speaking out of ignorance as one could not comprehend his statement that Christians outnumber muslims in Nigeria.

The conference of the ulamas and Imams vehemently rejected the lip-sided composition of the membership and leadership of the national political reform conference, urging all muslim delegates to the conference to insist on equitable representation in the leadership of the conference, the communiqué said.

JNI said that equity and fairness at all times should be upheld in carrying out national assignments, bearing in mind that religion is the bedrock of society, pointing out that the selection of members and appointment of leadership is glaring to the disadvantage of the muslims in Nigeria.

The communiqué said that veritable census figures cannot be sacrificed on the altar of political opportunism, while also advising those concerned to desist in the interest of interfaith harmony and national stability.

The Ulamas and Imams said they, will not accept attempts to tamper with the multi religions nature of Nigeria and the position of sharia in the constitution.

Among those present at the conference were representatives of the Supreme Council for Shariah, Fityanul Islam Muslim Congress of Nigeria, Jama'atul Izalatul Bid'a wa Ikamatu Sunnah, Monezamatu Fityatul Islam and several other Islamic organisations in the country.

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REFLECTIONS

By ISSA AREMU

Opinion

Branding of NEPAD

Ever heard of new development virus; Britain's Commission for Africa under the directorship of Prime Minister Tony Brown and Finance Minister Gordon Brown? Invented in February last year, it courageously sets to 'manage globalization for Africa'. Quite alluring, it sets to position the continent to meet the all-important Millennium Development Goals on poverty reduction due for mid-term review this year. Assuming it is all about public relations, Commission for Africa is one huge success before its document

subscribe to it willingly half a century after 'independence'. While the content of the Commission's document is being finalised, Tony Blair is already assuming some original thinking and even a vision for a seemingly intractable dark-continent. The poverty of Africa he said constitutes a 'scar on the conscience of the world'. The indiscriminate characterization of all countries of Africa as being poor is one thought for food! I am not sure about the cultural dimension of Lugard's colonial campaigns which undoubtedly involved looting of African arts, brutal

participants on 'branding of NEPAD'. According to Mr President, NEPAD branding involves '...deliberate and strategic efforts to popularise NEPAD and investing in products that are used in homes, offices and for export that carry the NEPAD brand'. 'If I may so ask; what is wrong with NEPAD motorcycle or bicycle?' the President added rhetorically. As desirable as the President's challenge was it simplistically assumed that NEPAD patent is in itself guaranteed which is a misplaced assumption. I think the first task is to deliberately patent NEPAD against

Above all, branding NEPAD calls for its redomestication. NEPAD's chieftains must let it be owned by Africans themselves rather than G-8 which is eager to remove its cover and claim its ownership

is even finalised. The global (read; Western) media is already talking of 2005 as Blair's Year of Africa! Not even the President of Africa Union is so attributed with the Month of Africa!

We are told that the British Prime Minister is motivated by the twin presidency of G-8 and European Union to mainstream Africa in global agenda. This means this is another passing fad rather than any sustainable commitment. The totalitarian orientation of the Commission for Africa is the most intriguing. A Commission for a whole continent! Not even during the Berlin Conference of 10th century was Britain so privileged with such totalitarian claim on the continent! How an island of 60 million in continental Europe would as a matter of fact and without reservation lump a continent of a billion populations into a 'development' straight jacket passes for a millennium riddle! Even more intriguing is that the key drivers of what is loudly dubbed Blair's new initiative are enthusiastic Africans which include the Tanzanian President!

When Lord Lugard invented indirect rule, it was doubtful whether he imagined the natives would

violence and banishment of those who ventured to resist. But Tony Blair has showed that control paradigm can have some lighter side. One notable commission member is Bob Geldof of the Band Aid and Live Aid for the legendary Ethiopia's famine victims in the 70s, a rude reminder that two decades after, Africans are still perceived as some miserable victims. And why not? Note that this is a Commission for Africa NOT Commission by Africa or Commission of Africa!

Emerging facts indicate that the only thing original about Blair's initiative is the original smartness to appropriate the latent Africans' aspirations using willing Africans. This turism is acknowledged by discernable Africans no less by the British Economist! In its edition of Jan 22nd 2005 the weekly journal was short of accusing Tony Blair of plagiarism citing how his Commission's draft document wantonly pillaged NEPAD document. 'It's (read; NEPAD's) content is mostly copied by the Britain's Commission for Africa...' wrote the Economist!

Two weeks ago, NEPAD business group held in Abuja. President Olusegun Obasanjo rightly challenged

plagiarism and crude appropriation by the very people NEPAD's chieftains put enormous hope to realise NEPAD's goals. Commission for Africa is at best a copy of NEPAD without acknowledgement and at worse a subversion of the latter through resource dispersal and resource diversion without apology! Witness the fact that its proposals dealing with good governance for aid, democracy for debt relief are the same as NEPAD's! Branding NEPAD should start with this self realisation.

Above all, branding NEPAD calls for its redomestication. NEPAD's chieftains must let it be owned by Africans themselves rather than G-8 which is eager to remove its cover and claim its ownership. Furthermore patenting NEPAD calls for prohibition of willing African leaders and experts from serving multiple masters at the same time. Africans serving on Blair's Commission should chose between Britain's usurpation of an idea and a continent's attempt at development. History shows that Lagos Plan of Action was subverted by Brandt commission and ECA's popular participation was undermined by SAP.

ISSA AREMU (issaaremu@yahoo.com)

Supreme Court and confab:

The unanswered questions

By Aliyu Umar

When Mr. Tony Iredia, the director general of the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), and its management team recently visited the Supreme Court and offered the Chief Justice wide coverage of the court's activities, I asked myself questions.

One, by the nature of the constitutional function of the Supreme Court; apart from reporting its decisions, what kind of television coverage does it need? Two, Why has the NTA timed the making of the offer to the Supreme Court to coincide with when there is a Presidential Election Appeal pending in the court? Three, Mr. Tony Iredia has been the DG of NTA for quite sometime and how come he did not remember the Supreme Court and its activities until now?

This leads us to the main subject of this discourse in which we shall try to answer the question whether it is proper or constitutional for a serving justice of the Supreme Court to participate in a purely political non-event known as the National Political Reform Conference at this time or any other time?

The Supreme Court of Nigeria is a creation of the Nigerian constitution. Section 6 of the 1999 constitution lists the courts that constitute the judicial branch of government with the Supreme Court at the apex. The judicial powers of the judicial arm of government are also clearly stated in the constitution. Specifically, section A of part I of chapter vii of the constitution deals with the establishment of the Supreme Court, the appointment of the Chief Justice and other Justices of the court, the jurisdiction of the court etc. And there is

nothing in the provisions of this part of the constitution or in any other section of the constitution, which confers upon the Supreme Court or any of its members any non-judicial function or any function, which bears no relationship with the administration of the judicial branch of government.

In the light of the foregoing there is no doubt the people of Nigeria will want answers to the following questions:

Was the appointment of Hon. Justice Niki Tobi by the President to chair a political conference done in consultation with the Supreme Court or was it just a personal choice made by the President?

* If the President consulted the Supreme Court before the appointment was made, is it proper for the Supreme Court to get involved in this hastily-convened political conference at a time when there is a Presidential Election Appeal pending before the court?

* If the President did not consult Supreme Court before appointing Hon. Justice Niki Tobi as chairman of the political conference, is it proper for the learned justice to accept this type of appointment at this time?

* Is it proper for the President to offer this type of political appointment to a serving justice of the Supreme Court at this time when there are eminently qualified retired Justices of that Court capable of chairing any kind of conference?

* Is it proper for a serving Justice of the Supreme Court or any person for that matter to accept to serve as chairman of this type of political conference in the absence of any legal

instrument establishing the conference?

* Is it proper for a serving Justice of the Supreme Court to accept to serve in any form of governmental activity the funding of which has not received the approval of the National Assembly?

* Is it proper for a serving Justice of the Supreme Court to accept to serve as chairman of a conference the legality of which is being challenge in Court?

* Is it proper for a serving Justice of the Supreme Court to associate himself with a political conference, which at best, is of doubtful legal and political legitimacy?

* Is it proper for the Supreme Court or any of its members to associate with a political project initiated by the executive branch of the federal government without consultation with the National Assembly?

* Why did the President not wait for the final determination of the Presidential Election case in the Supreme Court before taking his case for the convocation of his political reform conference to the National Council of State?

These questions speak for themselves. Whatever answers we find for them, Honourable Justice Niki Tobi has no business participating in this conference in any capacity whatsoever, irrespective of the motives of the convener of the conference. At this point in time, the Nigerian judiciary must continue with the struggle to keep the flag of integrity flying and should, at any price, avoid the sweet talk from the NTA and the desperate politics of failure of the current Nigerian leadership.

Umar Esq writes from Country Chambers 18, Muhammadu Buhari Way, Kaduna State.

At this point in time, the Nigerian judiciary must continue with the struggle to keep the flag of integrity flying and should, at any price, avoid the sweet talk from the NTA and the desperate politics of failure of the current Nigerian leadership



YOUR LETTERS

Re: Confab and Zamfara Governor's blunder

I will commence my reaction to the above write-up by one Kabiru Yahaya Faru, published on page 7 of the *Daily Trust* edition of February, 2005, by urging our respected newspapers to always objectively assess the relevance of articles sent to them before publication. We must understand that cynics build no bridges; they make no helpful discoveries; no gaps are shortened by them. If we really want progress, we must take the forward, positive, optimistic outlook and discourage cynicism by turning down such unhelpful, antagonistic and indeed deceptive approach.

The author of the article opened his antagonistic submission by citing example with Alhaji Yusuf Garba, a former Permanent secretary and Head of Service and patriotic Gusau indigene as having not "the required grass-roots base(?) to really understand (sic) what Gusau community needs." Amazingly, the alternative persons the author provided are even more distant to Gusau community, as only one out of the many cited is domiciled in Gusau.

Surely, the personalities the author presented are good stuff and could all be suitable but surely also, they are not, in any respect, better qualified for the confab than the assembled team of the Zamfara State governor.

For instance, Alhaji Malami Aliyu Yandoto, is an

eloquent and articulate lawyer and who as a result of his strength of advocacy and dedication is today the National President of the Forum of States Independent Electoral Commissions of Nigeria - FOSIECON. And the current Secretary to the State Government, Alhaji Abubakar Husaini Moriki, is equally articulate, hard-working and intelligent. So also is Alhaji Mohammed Sani Takori Gummi - a veteran lawyer and the current Attorney General of the state. And Alhaji Yahaya Abdulkarim, a former Sokoto State Executive Governor is also needed in the team for his experience quite above probably all the other personalities earlier mentioned by Faru.

The inclusion of commissioner Mansur Sani by the governor is indeed important as there exist the need to introduce vigour of youthful vitality in the team and give youths a sense of belonging. Zamfara State can and should afford it because the team of three - one from each of the 3 Senatorial Districts of the State, namely Abubakar Husaini Moriki, Alhaji Malami Aliyu Yandoto and Barrister Alhaji Mohammed Sani Takori Gummi - are indeed equal to the six supermen team from other States of the Federation. The majority of Zamfara people, including the author of the rejoinder, should find comfort in the team and believe them to be

suitable for representing the nation if need be - even at the United Nations. Therefore, cynics should not be assisted to spread their deceit and antagonism on the pages of newspapers.

Indeed it is much easier to be critical than to be correct. Hence it behooves the minor critic, who hunts for blemishes, to be cautious and our esteemed newspapers editors to discard the resentful insinuations these unsafe submissions do engender.

*Iliyasu Buhari Maijega,
Volunteers - CLAD Gusau,
Zamfara State.*

Kindly allow me a space in your newspaper to call the attention of Abuja School of Accountancy and Computer Studies, Bwari on the need to adopt a suitable name for the institution.

It is well-known globally in the academic setting that names are given to various institutions to depict what such institutions stand for or set out to achieve. In support of this, I want to say without any sense of contempt, that the present name of the institution does not represent the true status of a polytechnic.

In other words, the name is diminutive.

The institution has been reduced to a school that is set up to run

Another name for Abuja Business school

Accounting and Computer courses only as presented in the name. This need not be, since the institution is accredited to offer other courses like Business Administration in both National Diploma and Higher National Diploma programmes.

I have carefully followed the activities of the institution over the years, and I believe the institution is evolving into a formidable force in the academic circle, and as such need not be

degraded.

At this juncture, I would want to recommend the name "Abuja City Polytechnic" as an appropriate name for the institute. However, for the purpose of choice, the institution may adopt any other name that should be followed by the word "Polytechnic."

It would interest the management of the institution to know that in Lagos state, there exists a state polytechnic (Lagos State Polytechnic) and a private polytechnic (Lagos City Polytechnic) in the same state. For this reason, I am confident that the name "Abuja City Polytechnic" would not and should not be opposed.

On a final note, as a concerned person and an advocate of sound polytechnic education, I am optimistic that the adoption of suitable name for the institution would go a long way in raising the confidence of prospective candidates.

*Ashiedu Kenneth,
Plot 270/273 U.A.C.,
Commercial Complex,
Garki - Abuja.*

Benue State and PDP Chairmanship

The murky political environment in Nigeria allowed for the sponsored attack on the person of Senator Amadu A. Ali on mere speculation that President Olusegun Obasanjo is trying to impose him on the party. The National Chairmanship position of any political party is sensitive. It is even more sensitive and important for the ruling party, the PDP. I expect speculations, oppositions, intrigues and sponsored campaigns of calumny against contenders for this position. In view of the sensitive nature of this

position, however, I expect reporters to write objectively.

I challenge media critics of Ali to assemble all the contestants to the PDP National Chairmanship position and do a critical analysis of the said contestants and let Nigerians see who is who in the middle belt that is more capable than Senator Amadu A. Ali for the position in question. This is a better way of going about it.

Let it be put on record that what has been said about his age, his public image, the meeting of the

Governors of Kogi, Benue and Kwara are all a figment of someone's imagination. Benue and Plateau states have produced the National Chairman of PDP at one time or the other. Since the position is zoned to the North Central, there is no basis for Benue State to continue to monopolize this position, as it alone does not constitute North Central zone.

Musa A.S. Idakwo,

Reactions to articles published in this paper may be directed to the editor via the email address: editor@dailytrust.com

News

Atiku gives Boni pass mark

Vice president, Atiku Abubakar, gave the governor of his home state, Adamawa, a pat on the back for a job well done since he assumed the mantle of leadership in 1999.

The vice president told a delegation of 34, led by the emir of Mubi, Alhaji Abubakar Isa Ahmadu, that the administration of Boni Haruna had done more for Adamawa state than all previous administrations.

"I believe that Boni's administration has done more for the state than any military or civilian administration from Adamawa North senatorial District, adding, "you should continue to encourage and support him and ensure that he is not distracted from performing his duties."

Atiku faulted the attitude

By Reuben Yunana, Senior Reporter, State House

of Governor Boni whom he described as "a very quite man who does not want to blow his trumpet."

He urged state commissioners on the delegation to convince governor Haruna to publicize his achievements to the people of the state and beyond.

"Please convince the governor to blow his own

trumpet. Boni is too quiet, he should make noise," Atiku said.

Speaking earlier, the leader of the delegation, and emir of Mubi said they were in the state House to pledge their loyalty to the government of president Olusegun Obasanjo as well as show their support to governor Boni Haruna, for his commitment to the transformation of Adamawa state.

He lauded the federal government for the extension of the Yola Airport and its designation as an international airport.

Fayose appoints new council of Obas chairman

Ekiti state governor, Mr. Ayo Fayose' has approved the appointment of a new chairman of council of Obas in the state, the Oore of Ofun-Ekiti, Oba James Adedayo popoola.

Oba Popoola with the appointment has become the 4th chairman of council of

From Femi Oladipo, Stringer, (Ekiti)

Obas in the state, he has succeeded the Elekole of Rjero-Ekiti, Oba Adetula Adeleye, who was appointed two years ago by the former governor of the state, Ofunba Niyi Adebayo.

The Ajero-Rjero-Ekiti, Oba Adebayo Adewole was the pioneer chairman of the council at the inception of the state in 1996 before he handed over to the Ewi of Edo-Ekiti, Oba Rufus Adejugbe, who was the second chairman of the council.

At a meeting held with the traditional rulers before the announcement of the new appointments, Governor Fayose, said his government has put in place an enduring system of appointing leaders of the council by introducing the position of Deputy Chairman to ensure that both the chairmanship position and its Deputy are rotated between the 16 first class traditional rulers in state.

Following the development, the Arinjale of Ise-Ekiti, Oba Adetunji Ajayi, has been appointed as the first deputy chairman of the council of traditional rulers in the state.

Gani wants Dariye impeached

From Abdulfatah Olajide, News Editor Lagos

Human Rights Lawyer, Chief Gani Fawahemni, (SAN) has called for the impeachment of Governor Joshua Dariye of Plateau State, Just as he urged president Olusegun Obasanjo to use him to expose other governors who may have stashed away public money in private accounts overseas.

Chief Fawahemni, made the call in Lagos yesterday, while reacting to the international warrant of arrest reportedly issued against governor Dariye by a London High Court for alleged money laundering and corrupt practices.

The Human rights lawyer who spoke with *Daily Trust* in a telephone interview urged the Plateau state House of Assembly to commence impeachment proceedings against governor Dariye, noting that the allegiance of the lawmakers is the people and not the governor.

He urged the lawmakers to defend the nation's constitution which they swore to uphold, adding that "they have to obey the constitution and apply its provisions and not defend the personal interest of any governor.

He posited that all corrupt governors must be disgraced out of office since they were not likely to resign honourably, lamenting that "it is not in the character of Nigerians to resign honourably."

Said he "here are some governors that are worse than Dariye and I don't know

why Obasanjo is keeping quiet over them. Dariye and other governors who are as bad as him should be dealt with appropriately."

He therefore urged president Obasanjo to investigate the finances of all governors in the country with a view to knowing whether they have stashed public funds in foreign countries.

Chief Fawehinmi asked the president to plead with overseas countries where governors may have kept stolen public funds to get such governors arrested, tried and convicted whenever they travel outside Nigeria.

Anambra professionals lament underdevelopment

The league of Anambra Professionals last week lamented over the slow pace of development in the state, saying it is as a result

From Beatrice Onachukwu, Stringer, Awka

of the social, economic and political problems lingering in the state.



CMB Chevron Texaco, Mr. Jay Pryor (r) President and CEO Dewood Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering (DSME), Mr. Sung Jung (m) Kupolokum during the Agbami FRSO contract signing ceremony, held in Abuja ...recently

Six council chairmen in Cross River state are in police net following their failure to submit to the state House of Assembly, the income and expenditure profile of their council administration since the time of their inauguration.

The chairmen are those of Bakassi Bekwarra, Etung, Obanliku, Odubra and Yala local government councils.

The arrest followed a warrant of arrest issued by the state legislature in its sitting on Thursday which directed the state police command to arrest the effected council officials.

Speaking in a motion on the matter in the legislature, member representing Calabar south 1

Police arrest 6 council chairmen for fraud

Bassey Ita, Stringer Calabar

constituency, Hon. Orok Otu Duke, stated that the arrest was in line with section 129 subsection D of the constitution which empowers the House to ensure an arrest warrant on such violators of the law.

Hon. Duke maintained that the council officials had remained blunt in submitting their financial transaction to the House for scrutiny saying that every repeated entreaties fell on deaf ears.

The legislature, *Daily Trust* recalls had three weeks

ago directed the councils to submit to it, their income and expenditure from May 2004 to January 2005.

Six out of the eighteen chairmen obliged but twelve others failed until they were summoned by the House to appear on Thursday with the said document.

Six out of the twelve appeared before the House on Thursday, with a comprehensive profile of the financial transaction but the six whose arrests was endorsed failed to show up with the document.



A cross section of the participants during the journalists round table, news briefing and analysis of the new malaria treatment policy by health workers, activists and health policy analysis held in Abuja recently

UBE, key to tackling illiteracy, poverty - Osuji

Education minister, Prof. Fabian Osuyi, says the universal Basic Education (UBE) scheme is the key to tackling social problems like illiteracy, ignorance, poverty and disease that are plaguing the country.

The minister made the observation during the inauguration of the board of the UBE in Abuja yesterday, adding that the inauguration represents an important and

By Henry Omonu Senior Reporter (Education)

strategic step in the nation's efforts at sampling out these social ills.

Prof. Osuyi, said with the inauguration of the UBE board, another milestone has been recorded by the Obasanjo administration in the education sector, especially the commitment of the administration to putting in place enabling structures for the full implementation of

the scheme. He therefore charged members of the board to dedicate themselves to discharging their duties with the kind of "vigor required to meet the millennium development goals, one of which is the elimination of illiteracy by 2015.

"It is well known that education is the single most poverty tool for the elimination of poverty, eradication of disease, improvement of health and longevity, and the overall well being of the generality of the population," he said.

The UBE scheme, prof. Osuyi explained involves nine years of compulsory, free and uninterrupted schooling by all children of school age from primary schools to the completion of junior secondary school.

Speaking later, the chairman of the board, Prof. Anezi Okoro, while assuring that the board will accelerate the level of progress in the education sector, added that the UBE scheme is the foundation on which all other levels of education stand.

"If this foundation (UBE) is made of rock, the secondary schools, universities and research institutions will be correspondingly strong. But if this foundation is made of sand or dust, any structure that stands on it is bound to collapse. Our precious Nigerian children deserve that we make the right choice," he said.

positions in Nigeria from pre-independence times and there is nothing to show for all these in Anambra state.

Stressing that the basic ingredients are in place in the state, Dr. Ndi, said the state creates industrial zones for raw materials, finished products, and adequate food production.

Chief Emeka Anyaoku, who was the chairman of the occasion, said that the state has all it takes to transform Anambra and its citizens into the greater heights in the country.

He commended the organizers of the summit while promising that government will now strengthen its policy of providing enabling environment which will encourage the development of Anambra state.

They also linked the underdevelopment to the large exodus of Anambra indigenous sons from the state, arguing that over 70% of the productive force is outside the state.

Speaking at the summit organised by the league of

professionals at Awka, the President, and Dr. Ndi Onuakwasi, said that the failure to develop centres of production in the state is the root of the problem.

He realized that Anambra citizens have been in power or in influential



JIGAWA STATE PILGRIMS BOARD

FACTS BEHIND INTERNATIONAL PILGRIMAGE IN JIGAWA STATE: HAJJ 2005

The aim of this write up is neither to trade words on some mischievous allegations and misrepresentations on the Hajj 2005 sponsored pilgrims nor is it intended to serve as any form of defense for the alleged wrongdoings. This piece is intended to put the records straight and clear the misconception about the good intention of the State Government.

It is imperative to state the facts clearly so that people do not use the noble initiative of His Excellency, Alhaji Dr. Ibrahim Saminu Turaki for mischief making, and settlement of personal vendetta.

1. The rationale behind processing of state sponsored pilgrims through the international pilgrimage was to enable the beneficiaries travel for the Hajj and return home within a Maximum of two weeks. By this, the delays, anxieties and rigors associated with the regular Hajj operations are avoided. A total of 1,100 pilgrims sponsored by the state were drawn from various NGO's within the state, Medical and Security Agencies, Politicians of all breed and association, the ulama, Federal and state Government Agencies, Traditional and Local Government Councils and many others across the country who by God's divine wisdom were chosen to fulfil this important religious obligation.
2. Relevant international passports and Hajj Visas were processed for all pilgrims. Earlier on, payments for Accommodation and Royalties were made to the Saudi Arabia Agents. The two House at Makkah were inspected and all facilities were in place. The out bound flights took place on 14th-16th January, 2005 consisting of two full flights of Boeing 747 Aircraft and the balance on a combined flight. Any body that claim that fictitious names were used and the money siphoned fall short of checking the facts before going to the press. It is very easy for one to confirm the flights from Kabo Air Services who were contracted, paid and actually airlifted the pilgrims to the Holy Land. One would even wonder how a total of 1,100 people duly screened and allocated with hajj seats could all disappear into thin air (or God knows where) while somebody pocket the entire fare including BTA of \$500.00 each and convince Kabo Air to airlift nothing into the Holy Land.
3. It is true and quite normal that in some few isolated cases, people that were scheduled to go were unable to make the journey due to problems associated with Visa, absence during the distribution of travel documents or as a result of mix-up in names written on passports, but in all fairness, these problems could not becloud the tremendous success recorded in the arrangement. It is on record that non of the pilgrims spent more than 12 days in the Holy Land. The pilgrims were also provided with meals of Minna and Arafat, an innovation which is worthy of emulation by all States. The pilgrims were likewise able to visit Madinah and make all required ziyarah before finally moving to Jeddah Airport for the Journey back home.
4. Governments at all levels sponsor pilgrims annually to Saudi Arabia and Israel. Whether it is proper to do that or not is a question of view point. While some people see the expenditure as a spiritual investment considering the prayers for the unity and well being of the country, others see it differently. In any case however, such expenditure are undertaken by Governments in the field of sport Jamborees, Political gatherings like the National dialogue, burial and other ceremonies. We therefore leave the accuses of some distinguished officials of the State Government of diversion and sale of seats to the saying of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him), that... "and whosoever believes in Allah and the last Day should talk what is good or keep quite (ie abstain from all illious of dirty talks)..."

Signed
ALH. ABDULKADIR A. MAJE
(Dandarman Hadejia)
Executive Secretary
Jigawa State Pilgrims Welfare Board.



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Remuneration for the posts will be as obtainable in the Federal Public Service and Council's conditions of service.

Method of Application:

Applications with copies of credentials plus any support documents and Curriculum Vitae stating age, marital status, educational qualifications, working experience with dates and names of two referees should be addressed to the undersigned. Letters of reference, properly sealed must accompany the application to:

THE REGISTRAR,
SURVEYORS COUNCIL OF NIGERIA (SURCON)
2ND FLOOR, OLD FEDERAL SURVEY
HEADQUARTERS,
5 TAFAWA BALEWA SQUARE,
(NEAR HIGH COURT BUILDINGS)
P.M.B. 40020, FALOMO POST OFFICE,
IKOYI, LAGOS.

This must reach him not later than four (4) weeks from the date of this publication.

Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview.

(Sgd.)
SURV. AFOLABI O. SOLESI, fnis
REGISTRAR

Trust International

World Report

Russia, Iran sign nuclear deal

Russia and Iran have signed an agreement for Moscow to supply fuel to Iran's new nuclear reactor in Bushehr.

Under the deal Iran has to return spent nuclear fuel rods from the reactor, which was designed and built by Russia.

The clause is a safeguard meant to banish fears that Iran might misuse the rods to build nuclear weapons, a concern of the US, Israel and others.

The agreement sets out a time-frame for delivery of the fuel, but officials said the dates would be kept secret.

The BBC correspondent in Tehran said the deal is significant because Bushehr will be Iran's first reactor to go on stream - a project that has become an issue of national prestige in the face of intense US opposition.

The signing, which had been expected on Saturday, was apparently delayed over disagreements about when the spent fuel should be returned.

Russia had been insisting that no spent fuel should be diverted for the manufacture of weapons.

Iran has repeatedly said its nuclear programme is

solely for the generation of power.

But despite Iran's denials, diplomats said investigations showed Tehran had had full possession of enrichment know-how for two decades, after acquiring the information from Pakistani nuclear scientist AQ Khan's black-market network.

Iran said its nuclear activity has solely peaceful motives

The *Washington Post* yesterday quoted officials as saying that the programme originated at a secret meeting in Dubai 18 years ago between Iranian officials and Mr Khan's associates.

The officials said Tehran, which was then at war with Iraq, bought centrifuges and an enrichment starter kit but also used the meeting as a guide before purchasing more expensive items elsewhere.

The offer "was the strongest indication to date" that Iran had a nuclear weapons programme, a diplomat was quoted as saying.

Iran's nuclear energy chief Gholamreza Aghazadeh and his Russian counterpart,

Alexander Rumyantsev, agreed the deal.

"We have signed a confidential protocol that sets out the timetable for the delivery of fuel to the nuclear power plant at Bushehr," Mr Rumyantsev said, quoted by Russian news agency Itar-Tass.

Russia has rejected US pressure to cut nuclear co-operation with Iran.

Washington is also concerned that the nuclear project could allow for the covert transfer of weapons technology to Iran.

At a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President George W Bush in Slovakia on Thursday, both sides agreed Iran should not be allowed to develop nuclear weapons.

The signing of the nuclear fuel deal has been delayed several times, apparently over technical and financial issues.

BBC correspondent said Iran is currently in negotiations over its nuclear programme with Europe, and one of the incentives on the table is an offer of a nuclear reactor from the West.

W/Africa lifts sanctions on Togo

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) said it is lifting sanctions against Togo with immediate effect.

The move follows the announcement by Togolese leader Faure Gnassingbe that he is stepping down after increasing international pressure.

Mr Faure was installed three weeks ago as president by the military, immediately after the death of his father, Gnassingbe Eyadema.

He will be replaced on an acting basis by parliament speaker Abass Bonfoh.

Faure Gnassingbe said he wanted to ensure the transparency of the election now due in April, in which he plans to stand as a candidate.

The UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, also welcomed Mr. Faure's decision.

A spokesperson for President Olesgun Obasanjo, who chairs the African Union, described Mr. Faure's decision as a "victory for democracy"

"What happened in Togo was a coup d'etat dressed in the borrowed robes of

democracy and we are glad that Faure Gnassingbe has finally realised the folly of what happened," Remi Oyo said, quoted by AFP news agency.

"For so long Africa has had a bad image. This eloquent testimony that Africa can create solutions to its own problems," she added.

The UN and African Union imposed sanctions on Togo after Mr. Faure was installed as president by the army hours after the death of his father earlier this month.

Saddam's half-brother 'captured'

A half-brother and one-time aide to former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein has been captured, the Iraqi interim government has said.

Sabawi Ibrahim al-Hasan al-Tikriti was number 36 on the US military's list of 55 most wanted former regime members.

He was one of only around 10 who have so far escaped capture or death at the hands of US-led forces.

There is a \$1m reward for him, and he is also said to be high on a list of the 29 most wanted insurgents.

An official announcement on the capture is expected

soon. No details have been given about where or when the capture took place.

Mr Tikriti was head of the regime's intelligence services during the 1991 Gulf War, and then chief of general security until 1996 before becoming a presidential adviser to Saddam Hussein.

Just last month Iraqi government officials named him as one of a group of former regime figures they said were directing and financing insurgency operations in Iraq from bases inside neighbouring Syria.

They have formerly asked the Syrians to extradite him

and others.

The BBC correspondent in Baghdad said the former aide's detention will encourage Iraqi and American officials to believe they are making progress in their efforts to tackle the insurgency.

Mr Tikriti's brothers Watban and Barzan are already being held at a US facility outside Baghdad.

They are expected to be tried in the next few months at a special tribunal along with other members of the regime.

Prosecutors are currently working to compile specific evidence against them.

Pope waves from hospital window

Pope John Paul II has made a surprise appearance at the window of his Rome hospital to wave to people expecting his traditional Sunday blessing.

Sitting on a wheelchair, the Pope made the sign of

the cross to bless the faithful even though he did not speak.

In a message read out by an aide in St Peter's Square, the Pope asked believers "to continue to accompany me... with your prayers".

He has been in hospital since Thursday after surgery to ease breathing,

an opening through the neck to relieve breathing difficulties.

Tube can be temporary or permanent.

Most patients require 1 to 3 days to adapt to breathing through tube.

Initially, it may be impossible for the patient to talk or make sounds, but after training most patients can.

It was the first time that the Pope has delegated an aide to perform the Angelus blessing, underlining the gravity of his latest illness.

The doctors have told him he must not even attempt to speak.

The Pope has made a great effort to keep his appointment with the faithful every Sunday, appearing before them to give a blessing even when he has not been able to give his full address.



Pope John Paul II

CONGRATULATIONS

On Your 80th Birthday Anniversar



Alhaji Shehu Usman Aliyu Shagari, GCFR

My family and I, heartily congratulate Your Excellency, Alhaji Shehu Usman Aliyu Shagari on your 80th Birthday Anniversary and wish you many happy years Ahead in the service of the nation and particularly in the worship of Almighty Allah.



Signed:
Alh. Akanbi Mahmud Oniyangi
(Walin Ilorin)

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Finance

Today's flight schedule

Albarka Air	
Lagos - Abuja	07:20
	10:30
	15:15
	13:00
Abuja - Lagos	8:45a.m.
	11:00
	13:15
	17:00
Maiduguri - Abuja	06:50
Abuja - Maid.	17:00
Lagos - Yola	1:00p.m.
Abuja - Yola	14:30
Yola - Abuja	15:30
Yola - Lagos	4:00p.m.
Chanchangi Airlines	
Lagos - Abuja	8:15a.m.
	11:00a.m.
	12:10p.m.
	4:45p.m.
Kaduna - Lagos	8:30a.m.
PHI - Lagos	9:00a.m.
	4:30p.m.
Abuja - Kaduna	2:30p.m.
Kaduna - Abuja	1:30p.m.
IRS Airlines	
CBQ - Abuja	8:00 a.m.
Abuja - Lagos	9:45a.m.
Lagos - Kaduna	9:30a.m.
Kano - Lagos	7:30p.m.
Lagos - Kano	11:15a.m.
Kaduna - Lagos	11:00a.m.
Lagos - Abu/MM	2:30p.m.
Abuja - MM	1:45p.m.
MM - Abuja	3:45p.m.
Abuja - Cal	5:15p.m.
Kano - Abuja	1:15p.m.
Abuja - Kano	2:30p.m.
Kano - Lagos	3:45p.m.
Lagos - Kano	6:00p.m.
EAS Airlines	
Lagos - Abuja	8:15p.m.
	11:45a.m.
	5:45p.m.
Abuja - Lagos	10:15a.m.
	7:15p.m.
Lagos - Jos	11:45a.m.
Jos - Lagos	2:30pm.
Dasab Airlines	
Auja-Lagos	830am.
Lagos-PHC	1030am.
PHC-Lagos	1230am.
Lagos-Kano	230pm.
Kano-Lagos	430pm.
Lagos-Abuja	630pm.
ADC Airline	
Lagos-Abuja	7:15am.
	12:45pm.
Abuja-Lagos	8:55am.
Lagos-Calabar	11:15am.
Calabar-Lagos	7:20am.
PHI-Lagos	9:45am.
Lagos-Sokoto	8:55am.
Sokoto-Lagos	11:55am.

Most airlines operate the same flight schedule on week days.



Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, finance minister.

Increase participation in ADB, Nigeria told

Nigeria has been urged to increase its level of participation and assume an influential role in the African Development Bank (ADB).

The call was made by Sam N. Chukwunere a member of the Investments and Securities Tribunal at the public presentation and launching of a book written by him, titled "African Development Bank (ADB) Catalyst for African Investments; Laws, Policies of practices.

According to him, despite Nigeria being the highest

By Anas A. Galadima, Reporter (Business)

single shareholder in the bank, with 10 percent equity participation as well as the sole consessional Trust Fund Holder, Nigeria has never produced a president of the bank and that its participation is rather, below expectation.

He complained that forty years after the establishment of the bank, with 53 African countries as shareholders, the bank only has 7 branches in the whole of Africa.

"It is therefore recom-

mended that (ADB) open fifty-three branches within the next five years i.e one office each in the capitals of the 53 African countries and a zonal office in each of the 5 zones. Why should an African investor need visa to access ADB financial services," he queried.

He added that at 40, ADB has come of age that it is no longer an experiment as it was 20 years ago. Therefore the bank has to put everything in place to make itself visible and its projects identifiable.

Many Africans, he said, still don't know about ADB and "this should be a major concern to all well meaning Africans."

He further urged the bank

to double its efforts in private sector financing from the existing 40 percent to 70 or 60 percent, and that it should increase its approved loan ratio which currently stands at about 20 to 54 percent.

Also speaking at the occasion, the special adviser to the president on the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), Mrs. Chinyere Ukpabi Asika agreed with the author that the bank needs to establish branches in all countries of Africa.

She lamented that the African Union (AU) has not been carrying the ADB along in the journey towards achieving the goals of NEPAD.

N25BN CAPITALISATION

Shareholders endorse Inland Bank's rights issue, IPO

The board and management of Inland Bank (Nigeria) Plc got the nod of the bank's shareholders to carry out a rights issue towards raising its authorised share capital from N8 billion to N10 billion.

Similarly, the shareholders, at an extra-ordinary general meeting (EGM) held in Abuja on Thursday, mandated the management to work out modalities towards floating an initial public offer (IPO) to raise additional N10 billion to boost its N25 billion recapitalisation efforts.

The bank, late last year, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for a merger with Guarantee Trust Bank (GTB) Plc in line with the new Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) policy of bank consolidation. The merger, however, had to be suspended late last month.

Contrary to speculations that the GTB management demanded suspension of the merger talks due to certain discoveries it made while undertaking due diligence on Inland Bank, the managing director of Inland Bank, Lamba Alhaji Zannah told newsmen at the end of the EGM on Thursday that their partners said they were trying to consult on some issues with their financial advisers.

Interestingly, however, shares of Inland Bank Plc continued to appreciate on the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) since the merger talks with GTB, and the shares remained firm despite the suspension of the merger.

Inland Bank's shareholders, at the EGM, unanimously endorsed the ordinary resolution that the authorised share capital of the bank be increased from

By Ahmed I. Shekarau, Group Business Editor

N2,000,000,000.00 divided into 4,000,000,000 ordinary shares of 50k each to N10,000,000.00 divided into 16,000,000,000 ordinary shares of 50k each by creation of 16,000,000,000 ordinary shares of 50k each and that such shares should rank *pari passu* in all respects with the existing ordinary shares in the capital of the bank.

Also, the shareholders unanimously approved the special resolution that clause 6 and Article 3 of the memorandum and Articles of association of the bank respectively be altered and amended to show that the authorised share capital is N10 billion divided into 20 billion ordinary shares of 50 kobo each.

These resolutions were, however, passed after an amendment was proposed by a shareholder, Mr. Sunny Nwosu, president of the

...House deputy leader seeks support for ACB

The deputy leader of the House of Representatives and chairman of the South-East caucus, Hon. Prince Gil Emeka Nnaji has urged political leaders from the South-East and other Nigerian businessmen, to support the African Continental Bank International Plc in its capitalisation drive.

Hon. Nnaji stated this when a management team of the ACB led by its executive director (business Development), Mr. Emmanuel Nwosu paid him a courtesy visit in Abuja. The executive director and his team came to solicit Nnaji's support to enable the ACB meet the N25 billion capitalisation requirement

independent shareholders association of Nigeria, to the initial plan which was that the bank would raise its authorised share capital to N8 billion, while the planned IPO will target N8 billion too.

According to Mr. Nwosu, it was better to float more shares and target huge amount since the regulatory authorities in the nation's financial system have barred banks from mopping over subscribed shares, and that since the Inland Bank was trying to enhance its bargaining position, it was better to aim high.

Earlier on, the Inland Bank MD told the shareholders that the management's decision to go ahead with its rights issue and float an IPO was to enhance its bargaining power when it resumes merger talks with GTB.

The IPO will be opened after the bank has carried out all necessary official procedures and fixed a price for its offer.

stipulated for banks in the country by the Central Bank of Nigeria.

Hon. Nnaji advised banks in the country to be development-oriented in their operations through the economic empowerment of the people. He said that if credit facilities were granted to farmers and small-scale businessmen, there could be an improvement in the living standard of the people.

The ACB which was resuscitated recently after many years of inactivity is currently making arrangements to capitalise to enable the bank meet the N25 billion capitalisation requirement.

FG raises hope on economy

The federal government has raised hopes that its on-going reforms will turn around Nigeria's receding economy in a few years time, saying that it is determined to make the country the first point of call by foreign investors in Africa.

Making this declaration in Lagos, the minister of information, Chief Chukwuemeka Chikelu said at the Media launch of MTV Network Africa in Lagos, that the government was prepared to amend deficiencies inherent in the economic environment.

Speaking at the event graced by the president, MTV Networks, Europe and creative MTV international, Brent Hansen, Nigeria Music Maestro, Stieve Rhodes, President Performing Musicians Association of Nigeria

From Bright Ewulu, Deputy Business Editor

(Lagos) (PMAN) Mr. Charles Oputa (charley Boy) etc, Chikelu stressed that government is serious about developing the nation's show business and entertainment industry to compete favourably with those of other countries.

He said that the federal government's support of MTV launch in Nigeria was due to the opportunities the move offers to Nigerian entertainers.

Hansen, in his welcome speech said that his company has not come to Nigeria nay Africa to impose western culture on the people, But to develop their own cultural advantages and music traditions.

Briefs

Afribank

Exhibitors and investors at the on-going Kaduna International Trade Fair praised Afribank Nigeria Plc for providing them with necessary financial services even as investors hail the bank's effort at providing them with information on their investments at the fair, a statement from the bank said.

He added that customers of the bank from all parts of the country who patronised the bank at the fair for one service or the other stated that the bank facilitated their business at the fair.

Many customers and shareholders of the bank have since the fair started, besieged the bank's stand to avail themselves of the bank's various financial services, the statement said.

NBM Bank

NBM Bank has launched its Western Union Money transfer and B-Web services at the venue of the official commissioning of the Abuja branch office of the bank.

The bank, in a statement signed by its head of corporate services, Mrs. Bimbo Sowemimo, disclosed that it has been appointed as the 9th official agent of western Union Money Transfer in Nigeria, and is set to offer direct money transfer services to customers.

The newly introduced NBM Bank B-web service, according to the spokesperson, is an interactive medium designed to foster mutual relationship with customers.

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CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA PRESENTS

TWO-DAY WORKSHOP ON PREPARATION AND PRESENTATION OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY BANKS IN NIGERIA

In its continuing efforts to find ways of enhancing service delivery to the community banks in the other financial institutions sector of the financial industry, the Central Bank of Nigeria is organizing a two-day workshop on audited annual financial statements aimed at deepening the understanding and exposing all the participants to the regulatory, statutory and accounting requirements of audited financial statements.

The two-day workshop is expected to be attended by the Manager, the Accountant and the External Auditor of your bank. The participation fee is N21,000 (Twenty-one thousand Naira only) per institution and payment should be in bank draft made payable to Central Bank of Nigeria, Lagos on or before 4th March, 2005.

In recognition of the important role the External Auditors play in the preparation of annual accounts, this invitation is also extended to them to attend the workshop. It is our desire that the representative of the external auditor should be the person(s) who is (are) directly in-charge of your accounts.

The workshop would be run in two separate batches in each of the six (6) zones already identified as venues for the workshop.

In order therefore, not to ground the operations of any of the banks, the Manager and Accountant of the banks are to attend at alternate runs of the workshop in their respective zones.

Please note that attendance is mandatory as severe penalty including removal of any Manager or Accountant found culpable, awaits any bank that fails to send their representatives, while any firm of auditors that fails to send its accredited representative to the workshop stands the risk of its firm being blacklisted by the Central Bank of Nigeria.

Yours faithfully

SAM A. ONI
DIRECTOR
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DEPT.



NIGERIAN AIRSPACE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

MURTALA MUHAMMED AIRPORT P.M. B 21084, IKEJA - LAGOS, NIGERIA

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY FOR MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING TERMINAL AREA RADAR (TAR) SYSTEMS AT NAIA.

INTRODUCTION

The Nigerian Airspace Management Agency in her bid to enhance the safety and security of the Nigeria Airspace is inviting applications from interested and reputable companies to assist in the efficient maintenance and operation of the Alenia ATCR 33A Terminal Area Radar (TAR) system at Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja.

OUTLINE SCOPE

The scope of the works involved in the maintenance of the existing TAR system is as follows:≤

1. Provision of a Radar system expert in the country for 9 months to ensure continuous system availability
2. Sourcing and provision of the services of Radar specialists for systems intervention when the need arises.
3. Provision of a reliability centered maintenance support involving preventive and corrective maintenance activities according to specified standards.
4. Provision of all parts and consumable components required for the sustainable of radar systems.
5. Provision of necessary adaptive modifications to overcome spare parts obsolescence to ensure sustained system availability
6. Provision of software tapes and associated components
7. Repairs of repairable line units (RLU) and modules to sustain effective maintenance operations.
8. On-the job training OJT of personnel that will improve the maintenance Skills and dexterity of the maintenance staff.(RLU) and modules to sustain effective maintenance operations.

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS

Interested reputable Nigerian and Foreign Contractors or their accredited representative should submit the following Pre-qualification documents:≤

1. Certificate of Incorporation
2. Company Profile / Brochures to include detailed CV personnel
3. Evidence of Registration with NAMA
4. Evidence of income Tax payment
5. Evidence of technical alliance with major system manufactures
6. Evidence of performance in similar environment in Nigeria or else where and ability to provide a full range of technical support.
7. Bank reference from reputable Bank(s)

Bid documents can be collected only after successful Pre-qualifications. Only pre-qualified bidders shall be invited to bid.

SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

The Pre-qualification documents shall be sealed and marked "PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING TAR SYSTEM AT NAIA ABUJA" and delivered by hand or courier not later than two (2) weeks from the date of the publication to the address below:≤

The Company Secretary / Legal Adviser
Nigerian Airspace Management Agency
NAMA Headquarters
Murtala Muhammed Airport, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria.

Business Trust

1ST-TIER SECURITIES

THE NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

REPORT AS AT FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2005

COMPANY NAME	NO OF DEALS	QUOTATION(N)	QUANTITY TRADED	VALUE OF SHARES
CUTIX PLC	2	1.30	211,750	275,275.00
Sector Totals	2		211,750	275,275.00
AGRICULTURE/AGRO-ALLIED				
OKITIPUPA OIL PALM PLC.	1	0.78	10,000	7,800.00
THE OKOMU OIL PALM COMPANY PLC	18	17.80	148,810	2,620,266.70
PRESKO PLC.	4	11.46	10,300	116,328.00
Sector Totals	23		169,110	2,744,394.70
TOMOBILE & TYRE				
INLOP NIGERIA PLC.	15	1.99	136,628	272,393.40
R. T. BRISCOAE PLC.	3	6.52	4,400	27,600.00
Sector Totals	18		141,028	299,993.40
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	25	3.42	378,897	1,295,827.74
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC.	19	6.63	279,832	1,855,286.16
CHARTERED BANK PLC	1	3.90	4,816	18,782.40
COOPERATIVE BANK PLC.	1	1.92	1,500	2,880.00
EIB INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC.	2	2.26	3,000	6,780.00
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC.	476	23.30	2,222,211	52,107,682.70
FSB INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC.	53	1.28	1,902,191	2,371,230.51
GUARANTY TRUST BANK PLC.	242	10.25	1,552,663	16,131,380.53
GULF BANK OF NIGERIA PLC.	11	0.58	1,099,000	613,690.00
INTERNATIONAL MERCHANT BANK PLC.	35	0.56	1,681,237	987,416.09
INLAND BANK (NIGERIA) PLC.	28	1.38	7,033,630	9,832,762.10
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC.	8	7.81	116,000	905,960.00
ELION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC.	2	0.62	21,666	13,432.92
MANUFACTURERS BANK NIGERIA PLC.	3	1.13	596,570	674,124.10
NAL BANK PLC.	2	2.80	13,655	38,234.00
OCEANIC BANK PLC	92	4.71	5,073,935	23,538,998.75
OMEGA BANK (NIGERIA) PLC.	13	1.58	192,200	308,105.20
STANDARD TRUST BANK PLC	10	7.41	156,250	1,157,812.50
TRANS INTERNATIONAL BANK PLC.	16	1.62	490,055	786,112.38
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC.	71	10.00	2,300,038	23,000,380.00
UNION BANK NIGERIA PLC.	354	19.26	2,939,380	57,162,809.06
UNIVERSAL TRUST BANK PLC	6	0.75	53,820	39,284.40
WEMA BANK PLC.	12	3.93	750,735	2,950,388.55
ZENITH BANK PLC	232	13.85	4,183,725	57,669,476.35
Sector Totals	1,714		33,047,006	253,468,836.44
BREWERIES				
GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC.	99	94.99	163,638	15,594,734.51
NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC.	409	35.00	1,239,100	43,880,642.18
Sector Totals	508		1,402,738	59,475,376.69
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC.	72	23.00	483,720	11,111,407.60
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC.	1	4.35	5,000	21,750.00
CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	19	7.13	253,060	1,880,815.30
WEST AFR. PORTLAND CEMENT CO. PLC.	20	10.00	142,240	1,422,282.50
Sector Totals	112		884,020	14,436,255.40
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS PLC.	15	4.47	83,685	373,954.60
CAP PLC.	5	7.35	6,300	44,905.00
D. N. MEYER PLC.	7	4.85	33,334	161,801.04
IPWA PLC.	2	0.50	2,258	1,129.00
NIGERIA-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC.	4	4.25	22,377	95,102.25
Sector Totals	33		147,954	676,891.89
COMPUTER & OFFICE EQUIPMENT				
TRIPPLE GEE AND COMPANY PLC.	1	0.87	1,440	1,252.80
Sector Totals	1		1,440	1,252.80
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS NIGERIA PLC.	2	1.00	5,878	5,878.00
C F A O NIGERIA PLC.	2	5.32	2,898	14,705.48
CHELLARAMS PLC.	2	1.71	3,944	6,744.24
JOHN HOLT PLC.	5	0.80	21,353	17,082.40
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC.	128	16.03	428,503	6,868,062.30
P. Z. INDUSTRIES PLC.	48	12.98	289,902	3,670,368.13
U.A.C. NIGERIA PLC.	54	14.17	206,613	2,927,706.21
U.T.C. NIGERIA PLC.	5	1.11	55,000	61,050.00
Sector Totals	246		1,014,091	13,571,596.76
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (W.A.) PLC.	4	1.02	203,050	206,707.40
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC.	2	14.70	2,109	31,008.39
Sector Totals	6		205,159	237,715.79
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY				
NIGERIAN WIRE AND CABLE PLC.	3	0.84	4,300	3,612.00
Sector Totals	3		4,300	3,612.00
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING COMPANY PLC	12	23.50	15,099	352,998.37
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC.	158	52.30	390,944	20,345,725.87
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC.	24	16.61	24,121	400,649.81
NIGERIA BOTTLING COMPANY PLC.	57	52.21	185,184	9,993,268.07
NESTLE FOODS NIGERIA PLC.	75	146.51	99,562	14,648,740.08
Sector Totals	326		714,910	45,741,382.20
HEALTHCARE				
CHRISTLIEB PLC.	1	0.56	1,312	734.72
EKOCORP PLC.	8	0.56	304,080	170,284.80
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	2	3.20	5,280	16,396.00
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	8	5.25	42,640	219,002.00
NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARM. PLC.	8	3.45	32,710	109,542.46
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC	20	8.50	128,913	1,057,422.66
Sector Totals	47		514,935	1,573,382.64
INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS				
ALUMACO PLC.	2	1.64	40,000	65,600.00
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIGERIA PLC.	8	1.00	98,233	99,039.01
B.O.C. GASES PLC.	6	2.90	90,900	262,960.00
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC.	20	3.05	81,533	248,288.72
VONO PRODUCTS PLC.	2	1.90	9,961	18,925.90
Sector Totals	38		320,627	694,813.63
INSURANCE				
AICO INSURANCE PLC.	8	1.90	60,403	115,230.70
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC.	1	1.40	800	1,120.00
CRUSADER INSURANCE PLC.	0	1.11	0	0.00
LAW UNION AND ROCK INSURANCE PLC.	3	1.32	59,600	78,672.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	3	1.51	3,200	4,810.00
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSURANCE PLC	5	0.93	100,000	93,000.00
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	8	3.04	120,341	351,612.22
ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE PLC.	4	3.28	15,541	50,974.48
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE	5	0.84	156,700	131,628.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	12	0.99	181,411	178,876.95
WEST AFRICAN PROV. INS. COY. PLC.	11	2.70	92,221	248,996.70
Sector Totals	60		790,217	1,254,921.05
MANAGED FUNDS				
C & I LEASING PLC.	2	1.38	19,000	26,220.00
Sector Totals	2		19,000	26,220.00
PETROLEUM(MARKETING)				
AFROIL PLC.	7	0.80	21,939	17,356.20
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	89	161.41	161,732	10,060,206.26
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	13	2.04	1,034,000	2,109,360.00
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	50	179.33	83,348	15,008,551.50
CONOIL PLC.	70	117.50	53,979	6,361,833.82
TEXACO (NIGERIA) PLC.	33	151.00	34,355	5,180,115.05
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	29	182.49	24,052	4,365,343.98
NDO PLC.	176	90.00	176,552	15,597,489.61
Sector Totals	467		1,589,957	58,700,256.42
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
DAILY TIMES PLC.	1	0.66	5,000	3,300.00
ONGMAN NIGERIA PLC.	5	2.11	32,134	66,952.74
Sector Totals	6		37,134	70,252.74
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PLC.	28	8.79	310,565	2,728,123.00
Sector Totals	28		310,565	2,728,123.00
TEXTILES				
AFPRINT NIGERIA PLC.	2	0.46	26,075	11,994.50
UNITED NIGERIA TEXTILES PLC.	5	2.18	32,774	71,447.32
Sector Totals	7		58,849	83,441.82
Overall Totals		3,647	41,584,790	456,063,994.37

TOP 10 TRADES FRIDAY

SYMBOL	VOLUME	VALUE	TRADES
NB	1,239,100.00	43,880,642.18	409
GUARANTY	1,552,663.00	16,131,380.53	242
IMB	1,681,237.00	987,416.09	35
FSB	1,902,191.00	2,371,230.51	53
FIRSTBANK	2,222,211.00	52,107,682.70	476
UBA	2,300,038.00	23,000,380.00	71
UBN	2,939,380.00	57,162,809.06	354
ZENITHBANK	4,183,725.00	57,669,476.35	232
OCEANIC	5,073,935.00	23,538,998.75	92
INLANDBANK	7,033,630.00	9,832,762.10	28

TOP 10 GAINERS

SYMBOL	LASTCLOSE	FRIDAY'SCLOSE	CHANGE
UNIPETROL	88.02	90.00	+1.98
OKOMUOIL	16.98	17.80	+0.82
NOLCHEM	117.02	117.50	+0.48
SKBEECHAM	8.14	8.50	+0.36
OCEANIC	4.49	4.71	+0.22
NIGERINS	2.90	3.04	+0.14
NBC	52.10	52.21	+0.11
CADBURY	52.20	52.30	+0.10
BERGER	4.42	4.47	+0.05
ZENITHBANK	13.80	13.85	+0.05

TOP 10 LOSERS

SYMBOL	LASTCLOSE	FRIDAY'SCLOSE	CHANGE
AP	64.50	61.41	-3.09
GUINNESS	96.99	94.99	-2.00
NB	35.82	35.00	-0.82
MOBIL	180.00	179.33	-0.67
TUP	24.00	23.50	-0.50
TEXACO	151.50	151.00	-0.50
TOTAL	182.99	182.49	-0.50
NESTLE	147.00	146.51	-0.49
CCNN	7.50	7.13	-0.37
GUARANTY	10.43	10.25	-0.18

Oil holds above \$51 on consumer concerns

Oil held above \$51 a barrel on Friday despite fresh warnings from big consuming nations that economic growth may suffer from a renewed rise in fuel costs.

A commodity-wide influx of speculative fund money has helped pump up oil prices by \$6 over the past two weeks, driven by a weak dollar as well as a late-winter cold spell and forecasts for tightening market conditions this year.

US oil prices settled up 10 cents to \$51.49 a barrel, after climbing to \$52.05 on Thursday, the highest since November 1. Brent crude rose 17 cents to \$49.61.

Dealers shrugged off news of rising U.S. crude stockpiles to focus on Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi's forecast that oil would stay between \$40 and \$50 for the rest of this year, a signal the OPEC cartel might be happy with such levels.

In the past, members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which controls about 40 percent of global exports, had said they viewed \$50 as too high.

Sustained global growth has backed up the view that consuming nations can weather higher costs, but consuming nations are growing increasingly anxious as prices close in on last year's record \$55.67 peak.

US Treasury Secretary, John Snow said he was not happy 'one bit' with oil prices, while the head of the International Energy Agency told Reuters high oil prices would hold back economic growth.

"The price is extremely high. It is unreasonable and we have said for some time that it will hurt the economy," said Claude Mandil, head of the IEA, which advises industrialized nations on energy policy.

"I don't think that all the noise being made on prices staying high for all this year is very helpful. I hope producers refrain from saying that prices should remain at this level."

Despite fears OPEC may now harbour a higher price target, the cartel has backed away from plans to cut supply for the second quarter, when consumption traditionally eases following the northern winter.

Venezuela and Indonesia both came out in favour of leaving output limits steady when the group meets in Iran on March 16.

"I think a \$50 oil price is too high and OPEC doesn't need to cut production quotas," in Arifin Takhyan, director general oil and gas in Indonesia's energy ministry, told reporters.

YUKOS asks Court to reconsider dismissal

Russia's YUKOS said on Friday it had asked a U.S. bankruptcy judge to reconsider her dismissal of the embattled oil company's bankruptcy case.

YUKOS said in a statement it believed US Bankruptcy Judge Letitia Clark erred when she issued her dismissal order on Thursday, and argued the company would be hurt by her refusal to grant US jurisdiction in the case.

Judge Clark ruled the US courts had no jurisdiction in the case, and said the dispute between the company and the Kremlin belonged in a forum where Moscow would participate.

YUKOS, which sought bankruptcy protection in Houston in December, has complained it was the victim of a Russian government-orchestrated campaign to destroy it and former owner Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who is facing a 10-year prison term for fraud and tax evasion.

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NIGERIA DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF:

ALLIED BANK OF NIGERIA (ABN) PLC (IN LIQUIDATION) PAYMENT OF ADDITIONAL LIQUIDATION DIVIDEND

Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) in its capacity as the Liquidator of the closed Allied Bank of Nigeria Plc is pleased to announce that it has completed arrangements to pay the 2nd liquidation dividend to depositors with excess (uninsured) deposits from the funds realised from the assets of the closed bank with effect from Monday, 28th February, 2005. The Corporation is on this occasion declaring liquidation dividend of 8kobo per Naira having earlier paid a dividend of 6kobo per Naira to the depositors.

All depositors who had more than N50,000.00 in their accounts as at the date of closure of the defunct bank are hereby advised to collect their dividend from the Agent Banks' Branches listed below or visit the Corporation's website for further information on their respective Agent Banks. Depositors are required to present their Liquidator's Certificate as proof of excess deposit in the bank which will entitle them to collect their liquidation dividend.

STATE	AGENT BANK BRANCH	CLOSED BANK BRANCH	STATE	AGENT BANK BRANCH	CLOSED BANK BRANCH
ABIA	UBA, Abe-Owerri Rd. Abe	Allied Bank, Abe - Owerri Rd. Abe	KATSINA	UBA 23, Ibrahim Babangida Way, Katsina	ABN Kofar Kausa, Katsina
ABUJA	Habib, 348, Olusegun Obasanjo Way, Abuja	ABN, University of Abuja, Gwagwalada	KATSINA	UBA 19 Katsina Road, Funtua	ABN Kuyilo
ABUJA	Habib, 349, Olusegun Obasanjo Way, Abuja	Allied Bank, Abuja	KEBBI	FBN 'Kontagora Rd., Zuru	ABN, Lodge Street, Zuru
ADAMAWA	FBN, Garinda	Allied Bank, Garinda	KEBBI	UBN Baguda, Baguda	ABN, Kaejo, Kaejo
ADAMAWA	UBN 12 Bank Road Yola	ABN, Mulid Mastajika Way, Jibella Yola	KNARA	FBN 'Federal Rd. Egbe	Allied Bank, Erulu
ADAMAWA	UBN 12 Bank Road Yola	Allied Bank, Galadima Amuru Way Yola	KNARA	UBN Market Area Off	ABN, Ajasoo-Ipa Rd. Olla
ANAMBRA	FBN, 105, Oron Rd. Oron	Allied Bank, Emang Mbo	KNARA	Wema, 171, Ibrahim Taiwo Rd. Iorin	ABN, Iorin
ANAMBRA	UBA Akwa Rd. Uyo	Allied Bank, Barracks Rd. Uyo	LAGOS	Atriant 6, Industrial Way Ikeja	ABN, Ladipo Street, Ikorodu
ANAMBRA	UBA Akwa Rd. Uyo	Allied, Isal Abin	LAGOS	Diamond 54B Adeniji Jones, Ikeja	ABN, Allen Avenue, Ikeja
ANAMBRA	FBN, 12A, Oshiba Rd. Nnewi	Allied Bank Anka Eini	LAGOS	FBN 58, Allen Avenue, Ikeja	ABN, Oba Akran Avenue, Ikeja
ANAMBRA	UBA 24, Amachi, Rd. Nnewi	Allied Bank, Nnewi	LAGOS	FBN, A.G. Leventis 4243 Marina, Lagos	ABN, Broadhill St. Lagos
ANAMBRA	UBN Anka	Allied Bank, Achalla	LAGOS	Habib 18/20 Commercial Rd. Apapa	ABN, Kofe Abayomi Avenue, Apapa
ANAMBRA	UBN, Niger Bridge Head Oshiba	Allied Bank, Niger Bridge, Oshiba	LAGOS	Wema Bank, Mawman Kontagora 23A Marina	ABN, Broad Street, Lagos
ANAMBRA	Zaita, 56, New Market Rd. Oshiba	Allied Bank, Ogidi Rd. Oshiba	NIGER	UBA, Kontagora Branch, Kontagora	ABN, Agia
BAUCHI	UBN 18, Commercial Ave. Bauchi	ABN, Muzim/M Way, Bauchi	NIGER	UBA, Minna Branch Minna	ABN, Kafi-Kero
BAUCHI	UBN, Azare	Allied Bank, Sabara	NIGER	UBA, Kontagora Branch, Kontagora	ABN, Kontagora
BAUCHI	UBA, 28, Okotpo Rd., Maturdi	Allied Bank, Railway Bye-Pass Maturdi	NIGER	UBA, Minna Branch Minna	ABN, Pallo Rd. Minna
BENUE	FBN, Sir K. Ibrahim Rd. Maiduguri	ABN, Shehu Lamin Way, Maiduguri	OGUN	Wema, Ilesan-Remo	ABN, Obafemi Awolowo Av. Ilesan
BORNO	UBN, Calabar Rd Calabar	ABN, Mary Slessor Ave. Calabar	OGUN	Wema, Ilesan-Remo	ABN, Odele Rd. Ilesan Remo
CROSS RIVER	FBN, 41 Wandi/Sapele Rd. Warri	Allied Bank, Sapele Rd. Warri	OGUN	Wema, Ilesan-Remo	ABN, Old Ilesan Rd. Ilesan-Remo
DELTA	FBN, Abakaliki Ezzaogbo	Allied Bank, Umaku Village, Agbeja	OGUN	Wema, Lagos/Abeokuta Rd. Abeokuta	ABN, Quarry Rd. Ilesan Abeokuta
EBONYI	FBN, King's Square, Benin	ABN, Satporba Rd. Benin	ONDO	Wema, 4A, Oba Adesida Rd. Akure	ABN, Alagbaka Estate Owo Rd. Akure
EDO	FBN 21 Okiyere Avenue Eruwa	ABN, Okiyere Avenue, Eruwa	OSUN	Abibank, Osoybo Branch Osoybo	ABN, Ikoru Rd. Osoybo
ENUGU	FBN Eba-Ahumona Branch	ABN, Adani-Uzo-Urami	OYO	Wema, Plot 5, Old Dugbe Layout, Ibadan	ABN, Lebanon Str. Ibadan
ENUGU	FBN 11/12, Asasipha Avenue, Owerri	ABN, Okiyere Rd Owerri	OYO	Wema Oshadin Estate Branch	ABN, Oyo Rd. Ojoo, Ibadan
IMO	Habib Bank, 25 Ahmadu Bello Way, Kaduna	ABN Gwanta	OYO	Wema Badja Branch Ibadan	ABN, Oyo Road Meniya Ibadan
KADUNA	UBA Kaduna North Hospital Road	ABN, Ahmadu Bello Way Kaduna	PLATEAU	Habib, 25 Ahmadu Bello Way, Jos	ABN, Samiraka
KADUNA	UBA, Kaduna North Hospital Rd.	ABN, Yakubu Gowon Way, Kaduna	PLATEAU	Habib, 25 Ahmadu Bello Way, Jos	ABN, Beach Rd. Jos
KADUNA	UBA, Kaduna Rd. Zaria	Allied Bank, Zaria	RIVERS	FBN, [P/H Main] 22/24, Aba Road, P/H	ABN, Nchie-Elema P/H
KANO	Abibank, 66, Lagos St. Kano	ABN, Middle Court Rd. Kano	RIVERS	FBN, [P/H Main] 22/24, Aba Road, P/H	ABN, Point Block Forces Av. P/H
KANO	Abibank, Zaria Rd. Branch, Kano	ABN, Post Office Rd. Kano	RIVERS	UBA, Finima Bonny Island	ABN, Bonny Town
KANO	FBN KANO	ABN, Kiro	RIVERS	Zenith - Port Harcourt, Rivers State	ABN, Ikwerre Rd. P/H
KATSINA	Habib, 20, Funtua Katsina Rd. Mzamfasi	ABN, Musawa, Musawa	SOKOTO	FBN, [Main Branch], Kano Road, Sokoto	ABN, Kano Rd. Sokoto

Ex-staff of the closed bank who maintained deposit accounts with the bank are also advised to contact the designated Agent Banks for the collection of their liquidation dividend.

Individual claimants are to collect their liquidation dividend in person while those wishing to collect on behalf of Firms/Corporate bodies are to be properly identified in writing by the authorised signatories who had earlier endorsed the IDP slips.

For further clarification or any assistance, depositors should contact the Assistant Liquidator-In-Charge in any of the underlisted NDIC Consolidation Centres.

SN	CONSOLIDATION CENTRE	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NO.
1	Lagos Office	NDIC, Mamman Kontagora House, 23A, Marina	012683424
2	Lagos Cons. Centre	Allied House, Broad Street, Lagos	01-2663000
3	Eruwa Cons. Centre	28, Okiyere Avenue, Eruwa	042-257933 & 253046 Fax: 57181 & 252517
4	Abeja	Field Examination Unit, NDIC 447M48, Constitution Avenue, Garik, Abeja	08-5236730

Liquidation dividend would continue to be declared as and when assets of the closed bank are realised by the Liquidator.

Liquidator-In-Charge
Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation
Lagos Office
Mamman Kontagora House
23A, Marina
P.M.B. 12881
Lagos

Tel: 2647840-45
Website: www.ndic-ng.com E-mail: info@ndic-ng.com
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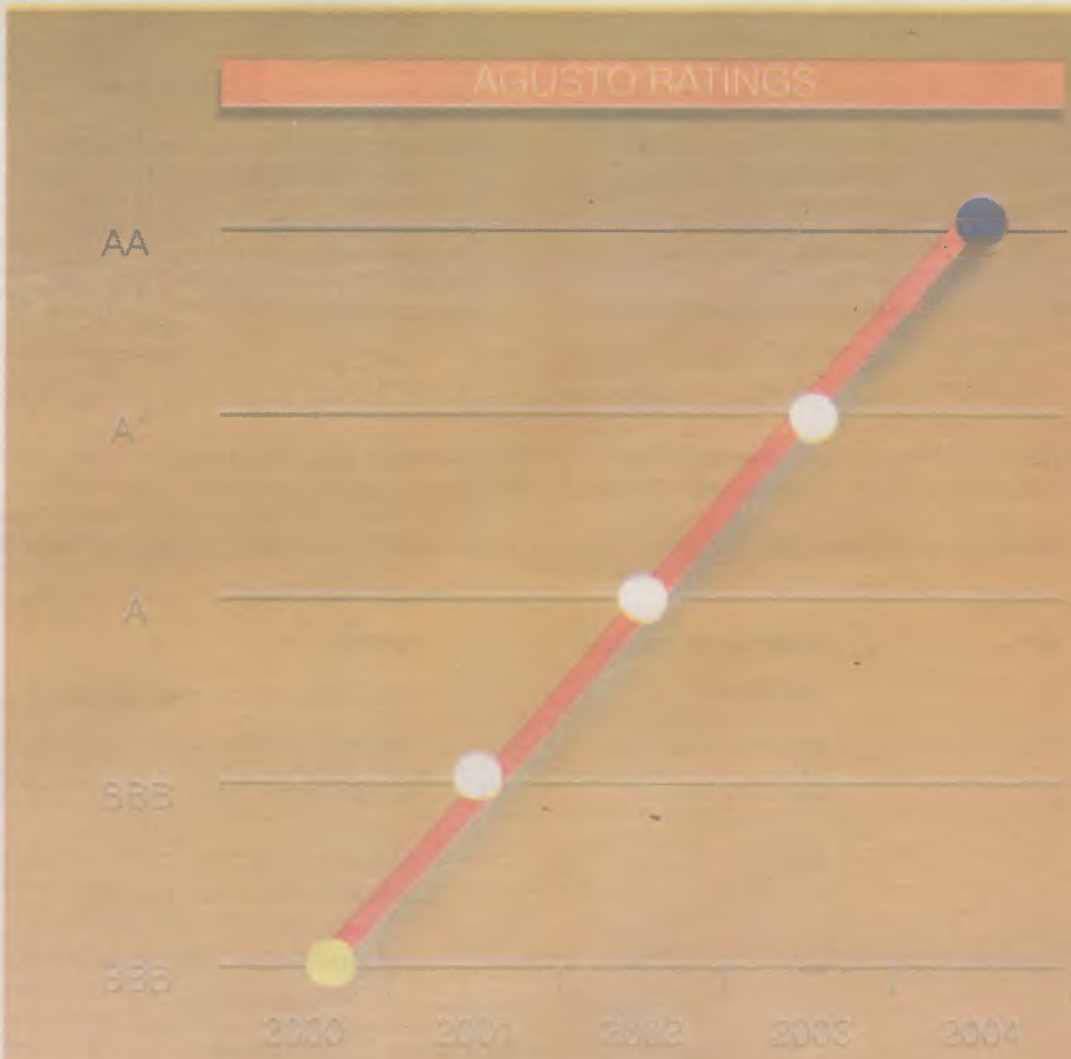
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IT World

Bank of America loses Card data of Senators

Computer tapes containing credit card records of US Senators and more than a million US government employees are missing, Bank of America said on Friday, putting the customers at increased risk of identity theft, Reuters news agency has said.

The security breach, which included data on a third of the Pentagon's staff, angered lawmakers already concerned after criminals gained access to thousands of consumer profiles in a database maintained by a data profiling company, ChoicePoint Inc.

Bank of America Corporation did not release details of how the tapes were lost, but Senator Charles Schumer, a New York Democrat, said he had been informed by the Senate Rules Committee that the data tapes were likely stolen off a commercial plane by baggage handlers.

"Whether it is identity theft, terrorism or other theft, in this new and complicated world baggage handlers should have background checks and more care should be taken for who is hired for these increasingly sensitive positions," Schumer said.

Social security numbers, addresses and account numbers were on the tapes for 1.2 million account holders, of which about 900,000 belonged to Defense Department employees, Defense Department spokesman Bryan Whitman said.

The tapes contained information from the accounts of dozens of US Senators and from employees of federal agencies, officials monitoring the situation said.

Bank of America said the small number of computer data tapes were lost in December while being shipped to a back-up data center.

It said there was no evidence of crime resulting from the loss

but the US Secret Service was investigating the case.

Although the tapes were lost months ago, bank officials were only allowed to notify cardholders when they received permission from federal law enforcement authorities, Bank of America spokeswoman Eloise Hale said.

"The investigation to date has found no evidence to suggest the tapes or their content have

been accessed or misused, and the tapes are now presumed lost," the bank said in a statement.

Senator Patrick Leahy, a Vermont Democrat, said he hoped the fact that Senate information was among the lost data would spur Congress to pay attention to a "rapid erosion of privacy rights" due to faulty data security.

Bank of America, based in

Charlotte, North Carolina, said it would monitor customer accounts detailed on the data tapes and cardholders would be contacted if unusual activity is detected. It said government cardholders would not be liable for unauthorized use of their cards.

The Defense Department has posted information about the issue for its employees on its Web site (www.defenselink.mil).

ICTs: Atiku foresees Africa's marginalisation

Vice President Atiku Abubakar has warned over the danger of Africa being further marginalized in the global socio-economic arena if information and communication technologies (ICTs) is not considered as a priority.

"There is still the danger of Africa being further marginalized in the global socio-economic arena. Therefore, the acquisition and utilization of ICTs should be a priority for us," said Atiku.

Speaking while declaring open the AfriNet 2005, in Abuja, Atiku said as at 2002, Africa had only 2.5 percent of the World's telephones despite having about 13 percent of the world's population, stressing that this translates to main telephone lines penetration of roughly 3 per 100 inhabitants.

According to the Vice President, the ratio contrasts with roughly 12, 35 and 37 for Asia, North America and Europe respectively, pointing further that the International Telecommunication union's (ITU) world telecom development report, 2003, showed that one in 85 African households has a personal computer, one in 80 uses the internet and while 59.2 percent of households have a radio and 83.2 percent have television.

He said "It is necessary for African countries to be active participants in this current wave of ICT development. This will

Stories by Hamisu Muhammad Reporter (Business)

help improve the standard of living of their citizens."

He stressed further that ICTs, especially internet play a major role in such crucial areas as health, education and research, agriculture, tourism, infrastructure and software development and governance, adding that "it is therefore, necessary to identify how we can fully utilize ICTs in our peculiar situation."

He commended the organiz-

ers of the summit for bringing the stakeholders together to strategize on how to sustain the development of ICT in Africa.

He urged the member countries to strive to sustain the wave of the enormous opportunities that technology makes available.

Speaking also at the summit, the chairman, Nigeria Communication Commission (NCC) Alhaji Ahmed Joda said the theme of this year's summit "sustaining the growth of ICT access in Africa" is to allow stakeholders deliberate more in the ICT penetration into the continent.

Summit discourages foreign aid on IT

African governments have been urged to de-emphasize dependence on foreign aids to develop their information and communications technology (ICT) sectors.

This call was made in a communiqué issued at the end of the fourth Africa Internet Summit and exhibition (Afri Net 2005) in Abuja.

The participants believed that while, external assistance is required to grow the local ICT market, and African governments must adopt a conscious approach at de-emphasising dependence on foreign aids to develop their ICT sector.

The communiqué said healthy competitive terrains remain key to driving investment, therefore, urged governments to evolve policy frameworks that discourage monopolies and to ensure policy and regulatory reforms by adopting deregulations and liberalization as cardinal

points.

However, it stressed the need for urgent reform of power sector to allow private sector participation, adding that stable electricity supply is a prerequisite to accelerate growth of ICT sector.

It also said: African governments should accelerate the implementation of universal access in the provision of ICT services to quickly bridge the digital divide.

Earlier, the participants observed that Africa's contribution to content on the internet is very marginal, representing only 0.2 percent of total internet content, therefore, urged that position needs to change based on effective intervention by stakeholders.

According to the participants African ICT environment being a part of the global ICT landscape requires that national ICT policies and regulations be made to conform international benchmarks.

Starcomms hits Maiduguri market

Starcomms, one of the telecommunications service providers in the country, has inched for the control of the telephone market in Maiduguri, Borno State by planning to introduce Internet service and slashing the prices of its products in a promotional sale initiative that shall last till the 16th of next month.

Starcomms Maiduguri Service Center Supervisor Mr. Terry Atoba made this known at a Prize Giving Ceremony in Maiduguri, where the telecoms company gave out prizes to winners of a recent competition involving the purchase of recharge cards.

Mr. Atoba explained that the drive to slash the price of Starcomms fixed wireless telephone line from N15, 000 to N9, 950 with additional N5, 000

From Abdullahi Bego, Regional Editor (Maiduguri)

of free airtime was meant to "bring quality and affordable telephone service to everyone in Maiduguri".

The Supervisor added that among the package designed to improve customer satisfaction is the provision for free calls between people on the Starcomms network. "Very soon, the people of Maiduguri will have easy Internet access via our network.

The service will come in various shades to ensure that the greatest number of people have access to the World Wide Web", Mr. Atoba added.

Four Starcomms subscribers received various prizes ranging from Refrigerators to fully branded computers to DVD Players at the Prize Giving Ceremony.

Briefs

MWEB

Internet Service provider, MWEB Nigeria has launched its unique and affordable payment mechanism for Dial-up Internet access called the MWEB Internet card product in Abuja and Port Harcourt.

The company flagged off a series of events which included functions, road shows and various advertising campaigns creating mass awareness of their products and services in the cities.

A statement made available to *IT World* by MWEB said internet users simply need to buy the MWEB Internet card from any of the MWEB distributors or vendors, configure their computer with the connection details presented on the card, dial-up and enjoy Internet access wherever they are. The card comes in four options; 5 hours Internet access cost N600; 10 hours Internet access cost N1000; 20 hours Internet access cost N1800 and 30 hours Internet access cost N2400.

Handsets

Motorola Incorporation, a world second largest handsets manufacturer has emerged a winner in a bid to produce cheap mobile handsets for Nigeria and the rest of the third world countries in the world.

The executive vice chairman and chief executive officer, Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC) Engineer Ernest Ndakwe disclosed this at the AfriNet Summit in Abuja, adding that the company won the bid at the just concluded World GSM Summit held in France recently.

Ndakwe said the hand sets, when produce will be affordable to millions of household who can not afford the regular mobile handsets in the market.

Technology

Plans has been concluded to establish a technology village called Cellcom Valley in the federal capital territory, Abuja. The village according to the chairman implementation committee of the project, Mr. Augustine Ike said is designed as a cluster and will be located along airport road, stressing that the first phase of the project will take up before 2007.

He said the project, when completed will be managed by private firms, adding that, the aim of the project is to allow information technology penetration into the country and boost the indigenous software developers.

Linkserve

The premier internet service provider in the country, Linkserve Limited has launched a Dial-up internet connectivity in Abuja. The new product according to the company will provide internet connectivity solution that gives customer access to the internet via digital telephone lines.

The Dial-up card is a pre-paid internet card designed to provide monthly access for up to 5 users with N4000.

IT Kiosk

Chams Nigeria Limited, has introduced its latest information technology kiosk that provide access retail billing and collection system with internet access.

Displaying the product at the AfriNet Summit in Abuja the company's managing director Mr. Demola Aladekomo said the basic system supports transactional card-based services, e-commerce, web-browsing and e-mail are made possible by the kiosk.

The ChamsAccess Kiosk comes with internet connectivity via a wireless network, telephone recharge card vouchers, airline ticket sales, purchase and reservation, as well as telephone services.

Otherservices include multimedia e-mail, information portal and video computer games.

E-mail

Lagos-based ICT firm, Corporate Trends Limited has revealed that it had been given permission by *my video talk.com* to do video e-mail in Nigeria

The managing director of the firm Mr. Deolu Ogunbanjo said Video e-mail is a technology that combines the power of television with the simplicity of e-mail.

He said the new video e-mail requires no downloads, no attachments and no file executable adding that it is pure streaming video on demand.

Galadanchi warns FG over rural telephony

The special assistant on information and communication technology (ICT) and education to the Kano state governor, Dr Bashir Galadanchi has indicated fear over federal government's involvement in the rural telephony programme in the country.

The National Rural Telephony Programme (NRTP) is to provide telecommunication services to rural communities in fulfilment of the universal access service obligation which stipulates that every citizen is entitled to telecommunication services irrespective of where they live.

Dr. Galadanchi who was speaking to *IT World* in Abuja said there is indications that the project may collapse as if government remain involved in it, indicating that the same problem that rendered the urban telecommunication programme for the past idle.

He urged for government withdrawal and allow private sector to participate fully for the sustainability of it.

According to him, it is only the private sector that will facili-

tate quick penetration and provide higher productivity.

The minister of communication, Chief Conelius Adebayo at the workshop on rural access policy Friday in Abuja disclosed that his ministry has commenced the implementation of the programme through two companies vis Messrs Alcatel Shanghai Bell and ZTE corporation, through a concessionary loan of US\$200 million secured from the Peoples Republic of China.

The minister said, the technology for NRTP is of two types. The Alcatel Shanghai which will cover 108 local government areas across the country is employing digital fixed exchange system with other integrated services such as; internet, fax etc, while, ZTE project which will cover 110 local government areas will deploy code division multiple access (CDMA) technology for advanced fixed wireless telecommunication services with capacity deliver toll quality voice facsimile (fax) and packet data (internet capable) services as well as small message services (SMS), global open trunking architecture (GOTA) and conferencing facilities.

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THE ARTS

British Council launches UK mosques posters today

The British Council will today in Abuja launch a series of posters of British mosques to be issued under its Connecting Futures programme. The series of posters have been produced by London-based designer Paul Khera from material gathered by Hamim Miah, a UK student of photography, and *Daily Trust* reporter, Aliyu Machika during a Representations of Islam project tour undertaken in the UK in September 2004. The tour

was carried out under the auspices of the Connecting Futures programme.

After the formal launch, the posters will be taken on a four-city tour of exhibition which will include Abuja, Kano, Katsina and Gusau.

Miah, who is studying at the Nottingham Trent University in the UK, met Machika, now attached to the Kano bureau of the *Trust* newspapers, in London from where they proceeded on their

two-week interview and photography tour. Some of the seven towns and cities they visited include homes of world-famous football clubs; Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham.

Based on the work of Miah and Machika, Khera's designs portray the unique architectural hallmarks of British mosques and the people who work and worship in them. They also depict words and scripts in two languages.

Expected at today's unveiling ceremony are religious leaders, senior government officials and other important dignitaries including the Editor-in-chief of the *Trust* newspapers, Mallam Kabiru A. Yusuf, and the editor of *Daily Trust*, Is'haq Modibbo Kawu. Meanwhile, the British Council has announced that Khera, Machika and Miah would also be present at the event to recount their experiences while working on the project.

List of discredited past Oscar-winning films out

Braveheart, starring Mel Gibson, which won the Best Picture Oscar in 1996, is at the top of a list of the most unworthy films to win the Best Picture Oscar award in the past. The list was released by a US-based film magazine just days prior to the 77th Academy Awards ceremony billed to hold tonight in Los Angeles, USA.

Braveheart was named and shamed alongside other

films like *A Beautiful Mind*, *Rocky*, and *Around The World In 80 Days*. Critics lambasted Randall Wallace, the screenwriter of *Braveheart*, saying, "This typical piece of Pom-bashing from Mel Gibson is just about the all-time worst Best Picture," the magazine reported. Wallace, they said, "might have merited praise for making 14th-century history relevant to audiences who thought King Edward was a potato or a cigar, but his dialogue has all the thudding subtlety of a parody." The critics also added that the film's "wilfully dishonest screenplay" and "clunkily intricate direction" added insult to injury.

A Beautiful Mind, featuring Russell Crowe as the mathematician John Nash, came second for its "galling" win in 2002.

The "tawdry circus spectacle" of 1952 movie *The Greatest Show On Earth* ranked third.

The "revisionist nonsense" of 1995 winner *Forrest Gump*, starring Tom Hanks as the man who has accidental meetings with important events in the US, is fifth.

Around The World In 80 Days, based on the Jules Verne novel, which took Best Picture in 1957, is seventh.

Sylvester Stallone's *Rocky*, which won in 1977, is ninth with critics stating "it was hardly surprising that the Academy should hail a picture restoring the American dream."

However, a showbiz writer, Patrick Peters, was quoted as saying "Critical worth is almost irrelevant where bestowing the Best Picture award is concerned. The Oscars aren't about quality. They're peer group nods of approval and, as a result, there has been a surfeit of unworthy Best Pictures and, rest assured, there will be many more to come."

Winning an Oscar: Peer group approval?

As the 77th Academy Awards ceremony, better known as The Oscars, airs tonight, it is worth asking if the awards truly deserve the hype they get. A US-based show business critic, Patrick Peters, (see story in shade) has raised the genie of the awards being more about peer appreciation devoid of any remarkable artistic value. Peters said, "The Oscars aren't about quality. They're peer group nods of approval and, as a result, there has been a surfeit of unworthy Best Pictures and, rest assured, there will be many more to come."

The reviewer made this assertion when a list of undeserving past Best Picture Oscar winners was released by a US film magazine. Surprisingly, some films that were well received by the generality of viewers were named in the list. The list includes the somewhat unforgettable *Forrest Gump*—unforgettable because the Tom Hanks character seems so incredibly unconscious of all the remarkable achievement he is making while living what appears to be essentially a retarded or at best abnormal life.

Here in Nigeria, a number of viewers that this commentator spoke to remember the film with some fondness. The consensus seemed to be that it may not have been high art but at least the film communicated some important values of the human experience. Yet *Forrest Gump* is supposedly the fifth worst movie to win the Best Picture Oscar.

Based on Peters' theory, does it mean that some deceitful forces are at play in giving out the awards?

By Crispin Oduobuk,
Group Literary Editor

Naturally, all conspiracy theorists would say "Yes!" And it would seem there is something to the 'conspiracy theory' in this

particular side, the question of timing also comes up. According to a BBC report, films that go on to win awards tend to be those released in Los Angeles in the later part of December. Caroline Briggs, an entertainment reporter with

movies and ensure they are fresh in the minds of Oscar voters when they fill out their ballots."

Clearly, this implies that the chances of films released earlier in the year, say June, are not as good as those released in December. But

adequate financial muscle to give its product all the buzz it can get, knowing if it wins it will recoup several times over. How this figures, or fail to figure, in the 'peer group nods of approval' is something that may not be easy to discern.



Hot favourite... Jamie Foxx as Ray Charles in the movie *Ray*. Would he get the nod of his peers to emerge as this year's winner in the Best Actor category?

situation. A good pointer is the fact that, often, Best Picture, Best Actor and Best Actress awards tend to go to stable Hollywood 'insiders'. Yet there have been some wild cards that came out of nowhere to win and therefore rock that theory. Admittedly, a question worth asking is if these have been cases of exceptions helping to prove the rule.

While one is in no position to lean hard on any

the BBC writes that, "The studios vying for cinema's most prestigious prize know that when it comes to taking home the goods, timing is everything."

"Under Academy Award rules, films fighting for Oscar nomination must have played on screens in Los Angeles for at least seven days in a row before the end of the previous year. This rule prompts many studios to wait until the last week of December to release their

then again even under this canopy, there have been clear cases of exceptions, which, (okay, it must be said) in the end, may simply add up to proving the point Peters made.

In conclusion, the issue of finance cannot be ruled out. As it is well-known, Oscar-winning films usually go on to make more money than they probably would have made without the win. So, it makes sense for a movie company with



Sophie Okonedo and Don Cheadle are also in contention for awards for their roles in the movie *Hotel Rwanda*.



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND NATIONAL ORIENTATION

COMMUNIQUE OF THE 35TH MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON INFORMATION
HELD AT THE GATEWAY TELEVISION HALL, OGUN STATE ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2005.

The 35th Meeting of the National Council on Information (NCI) was held at the Ogun State Television Conference Hall, Abeokuta, Ogun State on, February 16, 2005.

- 1.1 The Meeting of Officials which was earlier held from Monday 14th – Tuesday 15th February, 2005 with the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation, Alhaji A. D. Gidado presiding.
- 1.2 In a welcome address to delegates, the Ogun State Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr. Niran Malaolu expressed regret that the standard of journalism practice in Nigeria was declining and has thus contributed overwhelmingly towards the negative perception of Nigeria internationally.
- 1.3 He suggested that the Council through the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation should liaise with the National Assembly to ensure that the proposed regulation of journalism practice in Nigeria addresses this ugly trend.
- 1.4 In his address, the Acting Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation, Alhaji A. D. Gidado expressed the need for public enlightenment particularly on the various reforms agenda of the Federal Government and the forthcoming National Population Census. He stressed the need for the nation's information managers to give the population census adequate publicity
- 1.5 Before the commencement of the meeting, a-one minute silence was observed in honour of the Late Alake of Egbaland, His Royal Highness, Oba Oyebade Lipede I.

In his Keynote Address, the Honourable Minister of Information and National Orientation, Chief Chukwuemeka Chikelu enjoined delegates to refocus on the type of communication that will bring development and attitudinal change to strengthen the nation and our democracy.

- 2.1 He charged information managers to use the Ministries of Information and parastatals to move Nigeria forward, by increasing knowledge, stimulating community dialogue, promoting attitudinal change and creating demand for information change.
- 2.2 He also enjoined them to use their various information outfits to bring about advocacy for articulating appropriate laws and policies to make communication a development agency.

Declaring the Council Meeting open, the Ogun State Governor, His Excellency, Otunba Gbenga Daniel said that the advancement of human society has been greatly influenced by social and technological changes and stressed that societies had thrived on information which also influenced the course of human events. Emphasizing the role of the media as propagator of democratic principles, the Governor enjoined the media to play their role in ensuring the success of the forthcoming National Political Reforms Dialogue Conference.

RESOLUTIONS

- ➔ After extensive deliberations, the National Council on Information resolved as follows:
- ➔ That digital broadcasting is an inevitable global development that Nigeria should of necessity adopt. It therefore decided

that a Consultative Committee be set-up as a matter of urgency to prepare grounds for Nigeria's migration from analogue to digital broadcasting.

- ➔ Noted and commended ongoing Federal Government efforts at upgrading facilities at Federal Information Centres, in Ado-Ekiti, Awka, Calabar, Kaduna, Minna and Yola. When completed, the Centres would each have such facilities as cyber-café, library, cinema/lecture hall, among others.
- ➔ Noted efforts by Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria (APCON) in collaboration with the tobacco industry towards the total prohibition of tobacco advertising in Nigeria so as to meet the international deadline of December 31, 2005. Further noted that APCON had banned all forms of out-door advertising of tobacco products as well as the advertising of such products on radio, television/home videos leaving only the print media where such advertising had been restricted to black and white and inside pages only with effect from January 1, 2005.
- ➔ Noted the need for harmonization of Advocacy/Publicity strategies for effective mobilization of Nigerians towards a successful and credible Census 2005.
- ➔ Council noted the alarming rate of oil pipeline corrosion and leakages and advised oil companies to monitor their pipelines with a view to determining early corrosion and leak ages, as it was observed that the pipelines were laid more than 30 years ago.
- ➔ Reiterated the need for a policy to encourage Ministries of Information as well as their parastatals and agencies to carry messages on HIV/AIDS in all their productions, with a view to promoting awareness and bringing about attitudinal changes that would lead to reduction of HIV/AIDS prevalence in the country.
- ➔ Noted the need for the dissemination of Information at the grassroots to create awareness and sensitize the general public on the Child's Rights Act (CRA).
- ➔ Agreed on the need to reactivate television viewing Centres in rural communities across the nation because such centres, beside information dissemination, entertainment and public enlightenment, would provide a forum for discussion on issues of national importance.
- ➔ Advocated that Federal and States Ministries of Information embrace information management via the Internet, in order to provide e-community access to information
- ➔ Pointed out the importance of the proposed National Political Reform Conference, and called on states to urgently embark on public enlightenment, and mass mobilization of the people towards making the conference a success.
- ➔ Noted that the first Nigerian International Film and Video Festival has been scheduled to hold in Abuja from October 26 to 30, 2005 and endorsed the request for financial contributions from each state to fund the event.
- ➔ Council resolved to hold the 36th NCI meeting in July 2005 in Akwa-Ibom state
- ➔ Council expressed its profound gratitude to the Government and people of Ogun State for their warmth, hospitality and the excellent arrangements made towards the success of the 35th NCI Meeting.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ON INFORMATION



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SOKOTO STATE GOVERNMENT

His Excellency the Executive Governor of Sokoto State, **Alhaji (Dr.) Attahiru Bafarawa (Garkuwan Sokoto)** on behalf of Government and good people of Sokoto state warmly welcomes His Excellency the Executive Governor of Borno state, **Senator (Dr.) Ali Modu Shariff** who will be in the state for a two day working visit between 28th February to 1st March, 2005.

Your Excellency, we welcome you to the seat of the Caliphate.

During the visit various projects executed by present administration under the leadership of His Excellency **Alhaji (Dr.) Attahiru Dalhatu Bafarawa (Garkuwan Sokoto)** would be commissioned by His Excellency the Executive Governor of Borno State. We wish you a happy stay in Sokoto.

SIGNED

Muhammadu Maigari Dingyadi
(Katukan Sokoto)
Secretary to the State Government
Sokoto State.



Senator (Dr.) Ali Modu Shariff,
Executive Governor of Borno state,



**Alhaji (Dr.) Attahiru Dalhatu Bafarawa
(Garkuwan Sokoto)**
Executive Governor, Jigawa State

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ABUJA TRUST

MFCT to remove abandoned vehicles

* Dissolves FCT fire service department

The Authorities of the Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory has said that it would remove all abandoned vehicles starting from March and that the FCT Fire Service would be merged with the Federal Fire Service to enhance efficiency. The minister of the FCT, Mallam Nasir el-Rufai, made the revelation at a one-day workshop organised by the FCT directorate of Road Traffic Services at the Merit House, Maitama, Abuja, last Thursday. He urged the directorate to ensure that only roadworthy vehicles are seen on the highways, so as to resolve the rate of accidents. And that the fire service division should also be combat ready at all times.

The minister also tasked the directorate to discuss the issue of the proliferation of motor parks, saying his administration would not allow a situation where every open space is turned into a motor park.

The minister, who described the theme of the workshop as: "Re-engineering for greater efficiency", tasked the directorate to justify the taxpayers' money invested in the procurement of working equipment for their service.

Earlier in his goodwill message, the acting executive secretary of Road Traffic Services, Engr. Buhari Dikko, thanked the minister for his zeal and interest in matters concerning safety of life and property, and charged officers and men of the directorate to take advantage of the ministers' kind gesture to live up to expectations.

Delivering his mission statement, the FCT director of Road Traffic Services, Mr. Samson Ataiyero, explained that his directorate is committed to ensuring that effective road traffic management and control would be observed in FCT.

Mr. Ataiyero thanked the FCT minister for his support and advised officers and men of the directorate to be

responsible and sensible, as any erring officer would be made to face appropriate disciplinary actions.

AMAC donates vehicles to security agents

The Abuja Municipal area council (AMAC) yesterday presented 14 vehicles worth N15.7 million to FCT police command and Department of State Service for effective crime control in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

In his welcome address, the AMAC chairman, Hon. Zaphania B. Jisalo, said that the area council was constrained to pick up the challenge of providing the vehicles due to the rising crime situation in the country.

He said that the increasing cases of crimes propelled the council to donate these ve-

hicles, so as to help in wiping out the activities of hoodlums within the FCT.

"We are motivated to assist the police and the state security services to enable them improve in their routine operations, especially conducting investigations and preventing crimes in our localities," said the chairman. He called on traditional rulers and residents to report questionable characters to law enforcement agencies as they are also regarded as custodians of law and order in their domains.

By Benjamin Auta,
Reporter Crime

A cross section of final year students and their principals in Abuja have described the on-going mock West African Senior School Certificate (WASSC) examinations as a distraction capable of having

Principals, students criticize mock WASSC exams

By Abbas Abdullahi,
Reporter, Abuja

adverse effects on students. The mock exams which is being conducted by the Education Resource Centre, Education Secretariat, Federal Capital Territory for senior secondary schools in the FCT was earlier scheduled for March 1 before it was back-dated by two weeks to begin February 16, through an urgent circular/time table released on February 15, a day to the examination.

Some of the schools' principals in their reactions described the action of the education department as very unprofessional and a distraction from the normal academic calendar, as well as the preparation for the May, June and July 2005, WAEC-SSCE and NECO examinations.

A number of members of

the academic staff also criticised the development, saying that they were yet to cover the syllabus having spent only five of the seven weeks of resumption of the current term on academic activities with two weeks spent on various national public holidays.

The SS 3 students at some of the schools visited expressed their displeasure over the development.

The examination aimed at improving the level of preparation of SS 3 students for the WAEC and NECO examinations has since commenced as scheduled, and will last for three weeks with subjects on Nigerian languages slated for Friday March 11 as the last paper.

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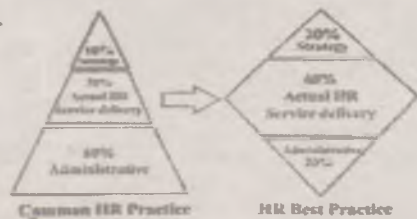
Your managers can now have reduced administrative chores and are freed to manage efficiently. They can set up projects, assign tasks, process time sheets, approve applications, and conduct appraisals of subordinates. They can respond to requests, send notices or perform appraisals from any computer on your intranet or the Internet.

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JIGAWA STATE GOVERNMENT

A Patriot @ 80

As you mark this auspicious landmark in your life and as part of the history of our beloved nation, I wish to on behalf of the government and people of Jigawa State felicitate with you and your family as you celebrate 80 years filled with emulative achievements.

Your outstanding contributions to your nation as a civil servant, technocrat, administrator, teacher and above all as a leader has really distinguished you above your peers.

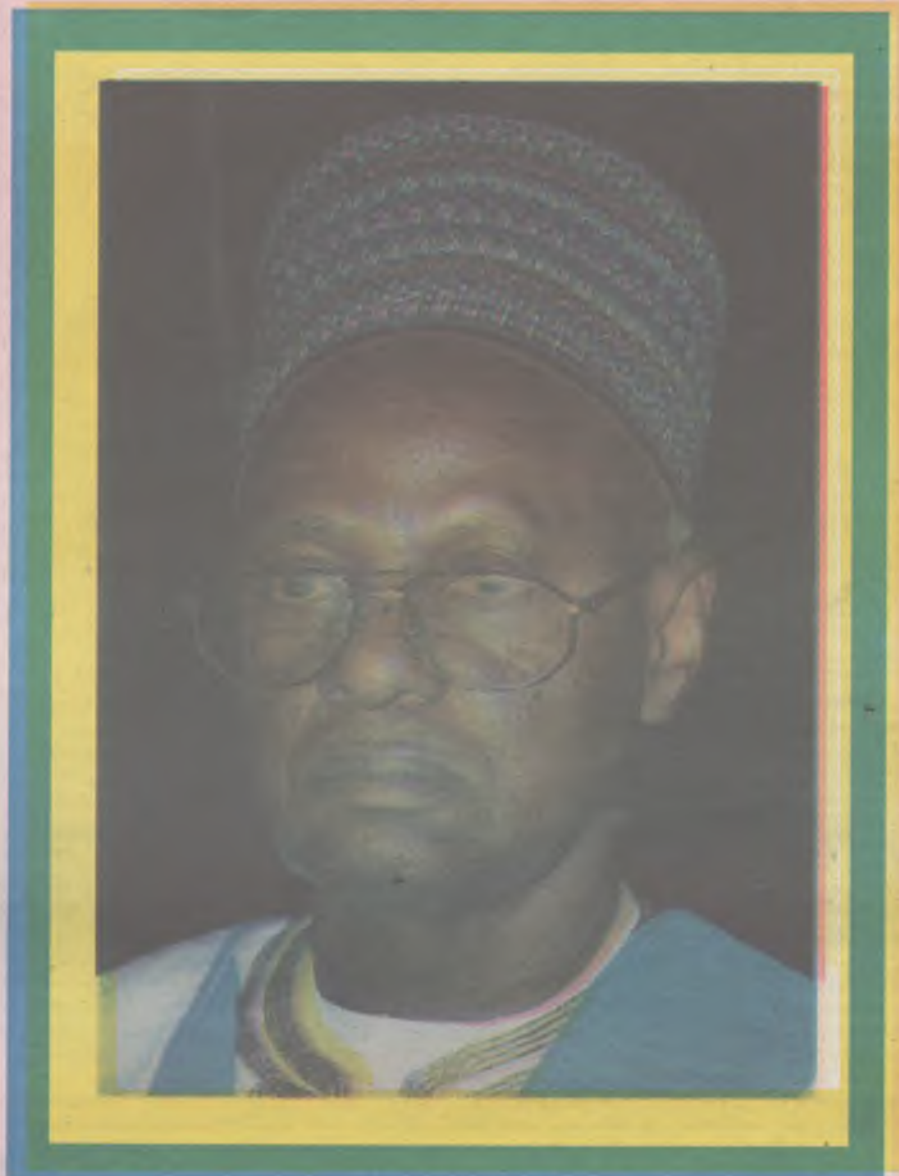
As we pray to Almighty Allah to continue to guide you and better your health, we equally pray for more prosperous and healthy years ahead.

May Allah (SWT) grant you peace, Health and sound mind so that our nation would be better for it.

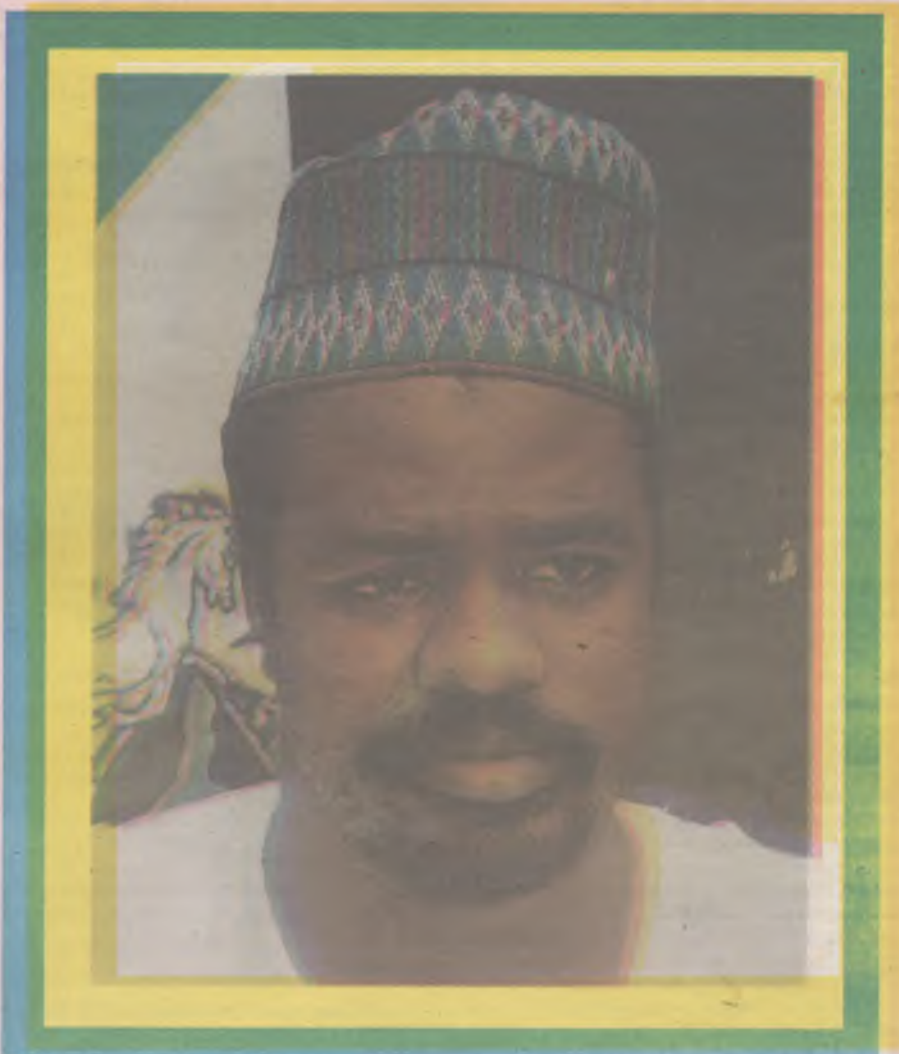
Congratulations

Signed

**Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Saminu Turaki
Executive Governor, Jigawa State**



Alh. (Dr.) Usman Aliyu Shagari, GCFR (Turakin Sokoto)
Former Executive President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria



Alhaji (Dr.) Ibrahim Saminu Turaki
Executive Governor, Jigawa State



FOR THE RECORDS

JIGAWA STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

ECONOMY AS IT RELATES TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Dr Ibrahim Saminu Turaki read this speech at the award night organized by the University of Jos as a part of the celebration for the award of Doctor of Science to his Excellence in recognition of his immense contributions to the development of Science and Technology in Nigeria.

PROTOCOL

Let me start this discussion with a short and interesting statistics. It may sound outrageous or even unbelievable but yet true:

The World population IS over 6.0 billion that can roughly be divided into three (3) classes:

- The rich, 0.8 billion
- The transitional, (1.2 billion), and
- The poor, (4.0 million)

Based on the criterion of the G.D.P in US \$ per capita

- <4,000.00
- 4000-16000 and,
- >16,000 respectively

The rich have 9 times the wealth 8 times the energy consumption and 8 times the carbon emission of the poor 20% of the world richest people account for 86% of world consumption of energy of and materials and the poorest 20% account for only 1.3 %

The above data clearly indicates an unbalanced equation in this world that is supposed to be free. It may not be realistic to attempt balancing the equation as it stands, but I believe it could be adjusted to look a little more reasonable.

It has been estimated that the world population will reach 9-10 billion in the next 40 years since the population of the developing world is declining; all the increase will be in the developing world and, principally in their urban center. This will immensely aggravate the global sustainability challenges in this century.

The Relationship between Science, Technology and Economic

The relationship between science, technology and Economic is a very intimate one. The terms science/technology and economic growth can even be said to be synonyms to one another. This is because you can hardly discuss one in seclusion of the other. It can proudly be said without fear of contradiction that science and technology provides the only formidable base on which economic development can successfully stand.

TECHNOLOGY AND THE WORLD ECONOMIC

Technology is a crucial input in the industrialization and development of countries. In the current era of the liberalization of international trade regimes worldwide, and increasing emphasis attached to international Competitiveness, the importance of technology as a factor determines the growth prospect of nations has gone up even further. Technology is perceived as an intangible asset and is traded internationally either in embodied or disembodied form. The former includes the transfer of knowledge incorporated in the designs of machinery or that embodied in the skills of migrating expert. This disembodied knowledge is transfer under contracts under which process know-how, product designs, right to use patented knowledge or copyright designs, or drawings are transferred by their owners to another party for a fee. The international technology markets are known to be dominated by a handful of industrialized countries.

The technological activity within these countries is also concentrated among a smaller set of bigger corporations dominating different branches of industries.

A number of changes have taken place over the past two decades or so, which might have important implications for the pattern of technology generation and its transfer abroad. These developments include evolution of new core technologies e.g. ICT (Information and Communications Technologies), biotechnologies and advanced materials and their widespread applications in different industries highlighted their commercial potential prompted a wave of techno-nationalism and technological protectionism in the industrialized world.

The economic strength of nations has ceased to be measured by the quantity of natural resources a country has. Rather, to some extent, on the level of investments it is able to attract and, to a greater extent on the number of skilled professionals it is able to produce. These skilled professionals in turn, offer services which accounts for a significant percentage of GDPs of many countries.

During the 1980s, the economy of most of the developed countries shifted its emphasis away from primary and secondary activities (notably Agriculture, manufacturing and mining) to processing, with telecommunications and computers becoming increasingly vital. Information became an important resource and product central to wealth and power. The rise for an information-based economy was led by major research in highly sophisticated technology such as advanced computers. Today, we have seen how some countries made use of technology both indigenous and imported, to their advantage.

Countries like Japan with little natural resources have concentrated all their attention on Science and Technology and, with that they were able to become a force to reckon-with in the economy of world. Japan is currently the world's second strongest economy.

Technology driven economic growth in Japan has been spectacular with average 10% in the 1960s, 5% average in the 1970s and 4% in the 1980s. Manufacturing for export is one area that Japan spectacularly known for Robotics constitutes a key long-term economic strength with Japan possessing 410,000 (more than half) of the world's 720,000 "working robots"

Let us make an analogy between Japan and our country Nigeria, and see how they fare in the world economy, see table 1.

Table 1. Comparison Of Economic Strengths Of Japan And Nigeria

S/N	PARAMETER	JAPAN	NIGERIA
1	Population	127,333,002m	120,000,000m
2	Natural Resources	Little	Numerous
3	GDP Per-Capita PPP	2.90trillion us\$	900us\$
4	Electricity Production Electrical Consumption	948.6billion KWH 948.6 billion KWH	15.67 billion KWH 14.55billion KWH
5	Average Consumption Of Elect/Person	74,497kwh	121.25 KWH

The above statistic shows that although Nigeria and Japan have almost the same population, in terms of GDP every Japanese citizen is equivalent to more than 30,00 Nigerians. It further shows that irrespective of the enormous natural resources Nigeria has, the Japanese economy is by far stronger.

According to the table above, an average Japanese citizen consumes 600 times more electricity than an average Nigerian. This shows that Japan produce 600 times more electricity than Nigeria and export non, while Nigeria exports some amount to neighboring countries.

The above economic and technological disparities between the two countries can be traced to differences in technological capacity and adaptation. This is because technology is the only advantage that Japan has over Nigeria. The impact of technology on the economy of Japan today has made it to threaten even that of the United States.

Technology-based manufacturing is a critical component of the world economy and remains the most powerful engine of economic growth. Manufacturing exercises productive capacities more extensively (than one manufacturing industries). This argument is supported by the following facts from the world's strongest economy i.e.

The United States of America:

- Manufacturing accounts for 16% of us GDP and employs approximately 14% of the nation's workers;
- From 1996-1999, GDP in manufacturing grew 5.1% annually while the economy as a whole increased by 4.3% annually.
- Technology based manufacturing accounts for 21% of the nation's GDP growth during these period (1996-1999).
- Technology based manufacturing industries and non manufacturing industries that are directly linked to manufacturing account for about 45% of GDP and 41% of national employment,
- 72% of us exports are manufactured goods.

The technology-based manufacturing sector contributed the greatest portion of the Us economy, but as can be seen they are supportive of the science and technology initiative in that they carried out 75% of the nations research and development activities while providing 66% of the funding.

Now, let us come down for a more relevant example to lesser-developed countries such as India. With more than 1.0 billion people, India is growing much faster than china and should surpass that country to become the world's most populous country in the next 20 years. Yet because of the impact of technology on its economy, the proportion of Indians living in extreme poverty- on less than 1.5 a day or less- has fallen from 36% 10 years ago to about 25% today, even though the over all population has grown. This clearly indicates that the impact of technology on economy can defy resist population growth. Had the population of India been checked, the proportion of those living on \$1.0 a day or less could have been less than 20% by now.

Indian economy is expanding at 8% annually, making it one of the fastest growing in the world. The stock market recently hit a record high and closed the year up 80%.

India's most prized resource in today's knowledge economy is its readily available technical workforce. India has the second largest English speaking scientific community in the world, second only to the us, it is estimated that India has over 4million technical and workers, over 1,832 educational institutions and polytechnics which train more than 67,785 computer software professional every year. The country is even recognized as one of the most advanced countries in unclear technology. It has been able to use science and technology as an instrument for this growth and change. Science and technology is being brought into the mainstream economic planning in the sectors of agriculture, Industry and service.

One area that spectacularly contributed to the economic growth of India is the ICT (Information and Communications Technology). A major reason for the success of Indian computer software industry is the large supply of labor with some It Skills.

India graduates, perhaps about 125,000 engineers a year, second only to US worldwide. India's stock of IT professional is estimated at over 400,000 so that IT industry revenues per IT (assuming all of them work in the industry) are about \$30,000. This means that India generate more than \$12,000,000,000 (\$12 billion) annually as revenue for IT professionals and this is projected to increase by a factor of 15.

Today, India exports software and services to nearly 95 countries around the world, with 61% going to USA and Canada. Annual revenue projections for India's IT industry are US \$87 billion.

According to a report by NASSOCM Mackinsey on India's IT industry:

- o Software and services will contribute over 7.5% of the overall GDP growth of India,
- o IT export will account for 35% of the total export form India
- o IT will account for 35% of the total export form India.
- o IT will create 2.2 Million Jobs in India by 2008,
- o IT will attract Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) of \$4-5 billion,
- o Market Capitalization of IT shares will be around \$ 225 billion,

It has been shown that the number of professionals leaving India in search of greener pastures had since declined.

Lessons For Developing Countries

What can the third world and, or African countries do the increase the contribution of science and technology to the growth of their economies? For that contribution to be important, science and technology, must deal with the endemic problems that face the continent. Sustained economic growth can only occur on a solid base. This solid base can only be providing by science and technology as a tool for that growth. Technology and science has helped Brazil to produce 120 million people Brazil no even exports food, meat and other agricultural raw materials. The history of Brazil being one of the largest exporters of sugar in the world would be interesting to hear, it started when there was rapid industrial growth in Brazil and the county was looking for means to fuel the industry and its automobiles. Importation of fuel (petrol) that Brazil lacks as to then could not be affordable to the then Brazilian economy. Luckily enough, scientific research has shown that alcohol can be produced from sugarcane, which can be used to power industrial machines. Brazil then embarked on massive production yielding sugarcane for the purpose. It is the excess of that production that is processed into sugar for domestic consumption and export.

Agriculture and agribusiness now accounts for 30% of the total Brazilian GNP and 40% of jobs in Brazil.

Third world, especially African countries should pave way for science and technology to contribute to their economic development. As contained in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, there are certain constraints that have to be eradicated in the world especially in the developing world for economic development to take place. I believe that technology and science are instrumental to the removal of these constraints.

For economic development to take place, basic needs of the population has to be satisfied. There has to be massive food and cash crop production. Technology has now made it possible for a single farm worker to produce food for 1000 people.

This entails greater support for agricultural research and development. Realizing this pertinent need, we have in Jigawa, for the past 4 years established an agricultural research institute to take care of the problems of agriculture production and also adapt production technology established in countries having similar soil and climatic conditions with us. Many research results form that institution have been disseminated to farmers. The impact of these results has been manifested in higher yields, the introduction of disease and pest-resistant varieties, and the production of crops of high nutritional and commercial value world over. Jigawa state presently exports agricultural products such as sesame and Gum Arabic to foreign countries.

For third world countries to utilize the resource of science and especially the new and emerging science, governments must invest in sectors like electricity and telecommunications. Waking-up to the needs of the day, the present government of jigawa has established the largest indigenous IT and telecommunications companies in the country to provide the much-needed services in that sector of the Nigerian economy. This company is now set to provide Internet and even telephone services across the country and with tariffs that could be as low as 20% of other GSM's. Conscious of the fact that electricity is vital to sustained economic growth. We have set to provide an alternative to, or supplement NEPA in our state. We have established jigawa state independent power project in this regard which is expected to take off in a very near future in our major commercial and urban centers to support our drive towards industrialization.

As seen in the case of India, manpower development in the IT and other technology fields is one of the key factors in industrial and economic growth.

We have decided in jigawa to invest in this very high rewarding sector for the sake of the future. We have to date, sponsored over 150 students of jigawa extraction to a degree in various fields of information technology in an outstanding university in Singapore. Back home, we invested heavily in the establishment of our university of information technology. This university, though still at its infant stage, metamorphosed into its present form an information technology college (informatics institute). We expect (all things being equal) to graduate 3000 students in different fields of computer and IT by 2007.

Assuming (remotely) that all these graduates work in the computer software and related industry, at an international average pay of US\$30,000 per professional per annum, the revenue contribution of these professionals to the economy will be US\$90 million or N12.6 billion this is almost equivalent account.

Third world Countries must also expand technical vocational, craft and utilitarian science education for their economy to grow. This will provide sufficient manpower for the manufacturing industries and enhance performance of the economy.

Last but not the least, investing in Science and Technology is investment into the future. Third World Countries and particularly African countries must be willing to invest in this important sphere to ensure economic growth and prosperity. They must look into the future of their Nations with optimism and set them on the part of development.

SIGNED
(Dr) Ibrahim Saminu Turaki
Executive Governor Jigawa State.



His Excellency,
ALH. (DR.) IBRAHIM SAMINU TURAKI
Executive Governor of Jigawa State

this growth and change. Science and technology is being brought into the mainstream economic planning in the sectors of agriculture, Industry and service.

80 Hearty Cheers to a Distinguished Gentleman and Patriot

I, Senator (Dr.) Amadu Adah Ali, fss, C.O.N. On behalf of myself and entire family heartily rejoice with His Excellency, Alhaji Shehu Usman Aliyu Shagari, GCFR, Turakin Sokoto, on the occasion of his 80th birthday anniversary.

We that have come to know you can readily attest to your diligence, discipline and commitment to the unity and progress of our dear country.

As you celebrate yet another birthday, we pray Almighty God to grant you good health and more wisdom, Amin.

Once again, happy Birthday.

Signed

Senator (Dr.) Amadu Adah Ali, fss, C.O.N.

ALHAJI (DR.) SHEHU USMAN ALIYU SHAGARI, GCFR, (Turakin Sokoto),
Former President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria



ZARIA ACADEMY SHIKA ZARIA

P.O. Box 532 Zaria

Tel: 069- 550938, 551740, 08023806726, 08054531235, 08023792426

Admission into JS1 2005/ 2006 Session Entrance Examination

The management of Zaria Academy wishes to inform the public that the Entrance Examination for admission into JS1 of 2005/ 2006 session will take place on Saturday 9th April 2005 at 9:30am. Applications are invited from boys who are in the final class of their Primary Schools and who will be aged 10 and not more than 12 years on 31st August 2005.

Method of Application

Application forms for the entrance examination will be issued on the payment of non-refundable fee of N2,500.00 only at the following selling centres:

- ✓ Zaria Academy, Kilometre 10, Zaria- Funtua Road, Shika, Kaduna State.
 - ✓ Sacred Heart School, Independence way, Kaduna, Kaduna State.
 - ✓ New Capital School, No19, Kwame Nkrumah Road, Asokoro, Abuja, F.C.T.
 - ✓ Nadi International School, Yola, Adamawa State.
 - ✓ Fariah Nursery/Primary School, Fadamar Mada, Bauchi, Bauchi State
 - ✓ Plateau Private School, Bauchi Ring Road, Jos, Plateau State.
 - ✓ CMDA Primary School, Maiduguri, Borno State.
 - ✓ Goldstar Nursery/Primary School, Naibawa Kano, Kano State.
 - ✓ Hadid Pharmacy, Tarauni Shopping Complex, Sabo Balin Zuwo Road, Kano, Kano State.
- From Standard Trust Bank branches nation wide.

With the installation of the latest technology facilities to enhance learning, Zaria Academy is aiming for greater heights from the enviable standard it already maintains. The Academy possesses a fully automated and computerised school management system, an integrated website and a V-SAT infrastructure that ensures real-time communication between parents, the school, students and the general public. These facilities have been setup to further improve the quality and standard of education of the students.

Examination Centres

There will be two Examination centres:

Zaria Academy, Kilometre 10, Zaria, Funtua Road, Shika, Kaduna State.

New Capital School, No. 19, Kwame Nkrumah Road, Asokoro, Abuja, F.C.T.

Application forms may also be purchased at the examination centres on the day of the examination. Parents who intend to do that should ensure that they arrive the centre by 8:30a.m. Bringing 2 recent passport - sized photographs for each candidate.

For further information, visit www.zariaacademy.org

Reuben U. Nyikwagh
Principal

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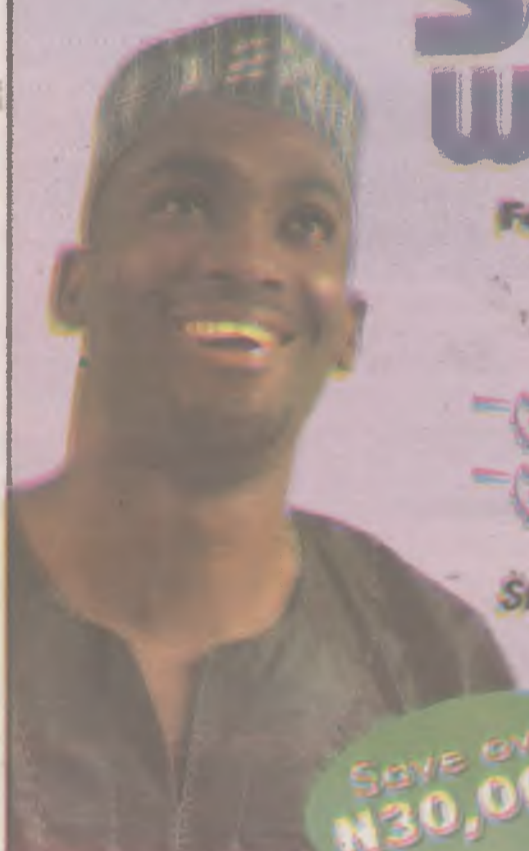
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- 1) Kenneth & George, 73 Ibrahim Taiwo Rd., opp. IRS building, Kano. Tel: 084 944666
- 2) Ephybrand Nigeria Ltd, 35 Zaria Rd., by Zaria Rd junction, Kano. Tel: 084 944961
- 3) Alexander Communications, Plot 6, Zaria Rd., Kano.
- 4) First Option, Shop 4, No. 69 Yoruba Rd, Babon Gari, Kano.

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Inside Politics



Former Head of State, General Ibrahim Babangida (right), Speaker House of Reps, Alhaji Aminu Bello Masari (left), former Speaker House of Reps, Alhaji Ghali Umar Na'Abba (2nd right) and former Deputy Speaker, Hon. Chebudon Nwuche during the reception organised for Hon. Bawa Bwari, in Abuja... recently.

Gov Goje cautions confab delegates

By **Abdu Labaran, Group Political Editor**

Gov. Gombe State governor, Alhaji Danjuma Goje has warned delegates to the national conference on political reforms against venturing into areas declared by President Olusegun Obasanjo as settled.

Addressing a press conference in Abuja over the weekend, Governor Goje commended President Obasanjo for restricting the conference from discussing the unity of the country, the practice of presidentialism and the federation principles.

According to Governor Goje, "In restricting the conference from discussing among others the issue of the unity of the country," President Obasanjo has allayed the fears of some sections of the country on the conference.

The north, said the governor "is firmly in support of the country remaining as one, we are fundamentally opposed to disintegration of the country, we think it is in the interest of every one that we remain as one,"

warning the leadership of the conference against allowing it to go beyond the areas specified by the president for discussion.

"The president has given a guideline, do not forget that this conference is not sovereign, what ever they will decide is just a mere advice, if you want to advice me and I say this areas is settled, why do you now waste your time to discuss areas that would not be acceptable," he wondered, admonishing that "anything that Mr. President says he does not want, should be of no relevance to the conference because the entire deliberations are just advice to Mr. President."

Looking forward to a stronger Nigeria emerging at the end of the conference, Goje supported calls for the conference to resolve all contending aspects of resource control.

"I am in support of discussing resource control at the conference, let us see the distribution of infrastructural facilities in Nigeria, let us see which areas are truly marginalised in the citing of federal government projects, let us see for example, how much is allocated to agriculture and which area of the country are agricultural in nature and what is allocated to the various produce," believing that the conference is going to help Nigeria in finding solution to the enormous problems facing us."

On the desirability or not of state electoral commissions, he argued that if the national

electoral commission was desirable then state commissions are also desirable, rationalising that "If you say we do not desire state electoral commissions, then we the national commission should also be scrapped, and let mew know how you the peoples representatives elected."

On the last flood disaster in his state, he disclosed that the state government had taken steps to ensure that the colossal damage the disaster brought on the state never happens again.

"First we have been able to give immediate assistance to people, we received donations totalling about N94 million and we have constituted a fresh committee with respected elders that are not part of government."

"We have handed over the money to them, what they decide to do is entirely their decision, the government is not involved in how to apply this money in alleviating the suffering of the people," he said, disclosing further that his government has commenced the construction of canals in the area most prone to the disaster to ensure that when the rains come again, its flow would be controlled.

"We have also forwarded to the federal government our request for assistance, it is a gigantic project that cannot be handled by the state government alone, I am hopeful that the federal government would listen to our plea," he said.

Marwa greets Obasanjo over *Thisday* award

The Lifetime Achievement Award conferred on President Olusegun Obasanjo by *ThisDay* Newspapers was a testimony to his immense contributions to the advancement of Nigeria, chairman of Albarka Air and former Lagos State Military Administrator, Dr. Mohamed Buba Marwa has said.

In a congratulatory message to the President, which is made available to *Daily Trust*, Marwa observed that to be selected out of 150 million Nigerians through the highly credible selection process spoke volumes about the impact that Chief Obasanjo's life has had on Nigeria," praising the President's commitment to service and his undisguised patriotism and loyalty to the fatherland as rare traits worthy of emulation by young Nigerians.

Marwa, who is also the chairman of Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON) as well as the Soluderu of Egbaland, recalled nostalgically Chief Obasanjo's tenure as military Head of State in 1976-79, "when the country witnessed an infrastructural development revolution with the construction of highways, bridges, ports, refineries, steel complexes and electric power stations as well as unprecedented peace during those years, culminating in a peaceful transfer of power to a civilian regime, which he said was a rare occurrence in the world in those days.

According to Marwa,



Dr. Mohammed Buba Marwa

Obasanjo's tenure also earned tremendous international respect for Nigeria due to his focused stand on issues and his leadership role in the G-77 and other multilateral agencies.

He said since Chief Obasanjo's return to power in 1999, he had worked hard to right the wrongs inflicted by successive regimes, specifically praising the NEEDS programme of socio-economic reforms as well as the political reforms sweeping the country.

He also praised Obasanjo's leadership role in the

...New pro-Obasanjo group emerges

Less than a week after the inauguration of National Political Reform Conference by President Obasanjo, a new pro-Obasanjo group, Obasanjo Support Initiative has been formed.

Announcing this at its inaugural meeting in Abuja last weekend, the chairperson of the group, Otunba Doyinmola Ayetigbo said that the formation of the group became necessary in view of the need for patriotic Nigerians to come together under a veritable platform to support Obasanjo's administration, especially his stride to execute his set reform programmes.

She said that the group believed that all the reform programmes are right steps in the right direction as this will launch Nigeria into greater height. She said that Obasanjo Support Initiative was a group of Nigerians, irrespective of their political affiliations that believe in the achievements of the present administration.

Otunba Ayetigbo, who admitted that though things are hard, asserted that the sacrifices Nigerians have to make today will certainly lead to a better Nigeria tomorrow.

She disclosed that the mission of the group was derived from the need to support and promote the ideals of Obasanjo's government and mobilise Nigerians in support of all his laudable programmes believing that all

international arena, by chairing both the African Union and Commonwealth of Nations and playing a leading role in NEPAD as well as Obasanjo's peace efforts in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sudan's western Darfur region, Sao Tome and Principe, Equatorial Guinea and Togo noting that despite all these achievements, "Chief Obasanjo remained God-fearing, committed, sincere, focused, decisive, disciplined and at the same time flexible."

And in his reply to Marwa, President Obasanjo said he

these reforms will solve the myriad of socio-political and economic problems facing this country.

While commending President Obasanjo for laying a solid foundation for economic growth, Otunba Ayetigbo listed the reforms carried out so far to include the deregulation of the down-stream oil sub sector; N25 billion re-capital base in banking sector; introduction of Due process in the award of government contracts; war against fake drugs and corruption which led to the creations of ICPC and EFCC.

Denying that the group is routing for Obasanjo's third term bid, the chairperson said that the issue of 2007 elections was not in focus now, as the group believed that it is not yet time to start talking about it because this could cause distraction.

Present at the inaugural meeting were members of the group across the country which include Chief Dayo Lawal (Ondo); Prince Out, Dandy (Ebonyi), Princess Modupe Olowu-Adebayo (Ekiti); Architect Akansi Lamidi (Kwara); Alhaji Said Gambari (Niger); Hon. Bisi Abioye (Lagos) and Mr. Ramoni Oyewole (Oyo). Others are Alhaji Abdulkadir Yusuf (Kaduna), Alhaji Isaku Usman (Kebbi); Alhaji Awwal Tajudeen (Ekiti), Chidi Ofonagorom (Imo) and Alhaji Modu Abdullahi (Borno).

regarded the award as having been made possible by the shared desire of all patriotic Nigerians to consolidate the foundations for the country's development adding that the award is a challenge to pursue those policies and programmes that promote stability, growth and development in Nigeria.

JIGAWA STATE FADAMA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a credit from ADB and intends to apply parts of the proceeds for Advisory Services. The Advisory services Component is requesting for a private and public services providers on the following activities.

- 1) Services providers for training, training materials and linkages.
- 2) Food crop production (commercial seed production)
- 3) Specialised Horticultural Crops and Friut tree production (seedlings production)
- 4) Crop Protection (IPM)
- 5) Livestock production (Veteniry) care, L/stock and fish feeds)
- 6) Fish production (Agua-culture-fingerlings production)
- 7) Special production (e.g Bee Keeping)
- 8) Agro-forestry production (seedling production)
- 9) Soil water conservation
- 10) Irrigation (water management and water conveyance systems)
- 11) Inputs supply linkages/machinery/equipment
- 12) Credit supply linkages
- 13) Marketing (Marketing information/prices)
- 14) Business management (record keeping & accounting)
- 15) Saving and Credit
- 16) Nutritional health
- 17) Management and leadership of groups
- 18) Service Providers for Rural infrastructure (e.g. Feeder Roads, Culverts & Drilling)
- 19) Others

Interested Service Providers must provide information indicating name of service provider, address, qualifications, experience and field of interest.

A Service Provider will be registered in accordance with the procedures set out in the ADB Guidelines.

Expression of interest must be delivered to the address below; Two Weeks from the time of this advertisement. Potential Service Providers are expected to register with a non-refundable fee of N3,000.00 only.

Jigawa State Fadama Development Project
JARDA
P.M.B. 7024 Dutse
Jigawa State

Attention
Dahiru Musa Jahun
Advisory Service Officer

Signed
MOH'D HURDI HARUNA
Project Coordinator

Trust Classified

ASSOCIATION OF KANO PROFESSIONALS

This is to inform the general public that the above named body has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The trustees are:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Albaji Yusuf Kyauta | -Chairman |
| 2. Dr. Adnan Kabir | -Member |
| 3. Mr. Bala Hassan | -Member |

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar- General Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5. P.M.B.198 Garki Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
ZACH OKORONKWO ESQ.
0803-3184180

LOSS OF ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

This is to inform the general public that the Original Certificate of Occupancy bearing the name ABEL ABBA. M. with No. FCT/GAC/RLA/AB/352 of Plot No. 152 issued by Gwagwalada Area Council FCT Abuja is missing. If found please, contact Abel Abba M., John Agada on 08033112472, 08037882401, Gwagwalada Area Council or the nearest Police station.

Signed
ABEL ABBA. M

LOSS OF CERTIFICATE

I, SALISU ABDULLAHI, wish to announce the loss of my School Certificate No: SG 327532A with Candidate No: 07655167 obtained from the Saint Charles College, Ankpa, now in Kogi State in June, 1982. St Charles College, Ankpa, Benue State Polytechnic, Ugbokolo, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, Abuja, Environmental Protection Board and entire public to note.

LOSS OF LAND LETTER OF OFFER

This is to inform the general public that the Letter of Offer of Plot No. 840, Size 3863.37m² located at Durumi District B2, belonging to MARLIMA VENTURES LTD., No. 5 Ahmadu Bello Street, Jimeta, Yola is reported missing. If found please return to the Maitama Police station or to Supercell Ltd, Suite C10, Shariff Plaza, Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja or call 08033117750. MFCT, FCDA AGIS to please note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

The general public is hereby notified the loss of Offer of the Terms of Grant/Conveyance of Approval. in respect of Plot No. G262 of about 1,000 Sqm in Apo Layout Abuja, belonging to MRS. TAWAKALITU OMOLABAKE, got missing. All effort to trace the said document proved abortive. If found please contact UJU NWANEKEZIE of Raliance Bank Limited No. 13 New Market Road Onitsha. 08037846271 or 08023404065 or the nearest police station.

Signed,
UJUNWANEKEZIE

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the Original Copy of Conveyance of Provisional approval for Plot No. B71 of about 700 Sqm in Ushafa Village Expansion Scheme (Extension I), belonging to Achi Bako Achi was burnt in a fire incidence at the lower Usman Dam, Bwari on January 15th 2004. The Authority concerned should please take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the Land Document in respect of Plot FCT/ABU/BD239 belonging to Ambassador VICENT SUNNY OKOBI is missing. if found please return to the nearest Police station or call the undersigned Phone No.

Signed
IYK UZUEGBU ESQ.
08023026048

CHANGE OF NAMES

We, formerly OLATOYOSI TUKAR and OLUWATOSIN TUKAR, now wish to be known as OLATOYOSI WILLIAMS and OLUWATOSIN WILLIAMS respectively. Former documents remain valid. The public to note.

I, formerly known as ADAMU MOHAMMED IBRAHIM, now wish to be addressed as ADAM IBRAHIM MUHAMMAD. National Universities Commission and the Public to note.

I, formerly MISS ADEBUKOLA AYOBAMI OJO, now wish to be called MRS. ADEBUKOLA AYOBAMI ODEWOLE. Ikeja LG.E.A. and SPEB t. note.

I, formerly known as ABASHE ALIYU, now wish to be known as SHAMSUDDEN ABASHE. All former documents remain valid. Katsina Civil Service Commission and general public to note.

CHRIST MOUNT ZION CHURCH

This is to inform the general public that CHRIST MOUNT ZION CHURCH has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The trustees are:

- PASTOR OKON JOHN ABRAHAM- CHAIRMAN
- DEACONESS SARAH JOHN ABRAHAM
- BROTHER EMMANUEL JOHN ABRAHAM
- SOLOMON AMOS UDOH
- OKWONG ASUKWO EFFIONG - SECRETARY

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar- General Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5. P.M.B.198 Garki Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
OKWONG A. EFFIONG
SECRETARY

HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION FOR PREGNANT WOMEN

This is to inform the general public that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The trustees are:

- Aisha Naidi
- Dr. Mrs. Fatima Yusuf
- Barrister Mrs. Ramatu Bako Doma
- Barrister Grace Ikymbe
- Mrs. Nancy Sugh
- Barrister Yaaya Akor
- Miss Jane Tobe

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar- General Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5. P.M.B.198 Garki Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Secretary

FAITH MIRACLES MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

This is to inform the general public that the above named Ministries has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The trustees are:

- FAITH VEDELAGO
- CHARITY VEDELAGO
- RICHARD VEDELAGO

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar- General Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5. P.M.B.198 Garki Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
O. J. OCHUNU ESQ.

CHARITY VEDELAGO MINISTRIES

This is to inform the general public that the above named Ministries has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The trustees are:

- CHARITY VEDELAGO
- FAITH VEDELAGO
- RICHARD VEDELAGO

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar- General Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5. P.M.B.198 Garki Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
O. J. OCHUNU ESQ.

THE LOVE OF OLD EVANGELICAL CHURCH

This is to inform the general public that the above named body has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The trustees are:

- Rev. (Mrs.) Emily Motirade Oladimeji -Overseer
- Pastor Albert Olagbaju Oladimeji - Minister
- Bro. Anthony Adekunle Olanrewaju - Secretary
- Sis. Abeni Omonike Adebisi - Member

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar- General Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5. P.M.B.198 Garki Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Secretary

ASSEMBLIES OF CHRIST TRIUMPHANT BAPTIST CHURCH

This is to inform the general public that the above named body has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The trustees are:

- Rev. Remi Matthews Adejumo
- Pastor James Ojo Omotayo
- Pastor Grace Ebon Oladimeji
- Barrister Abiodun Abu
- Bro. Solomon Akin Fabunmi

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar- General Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5. P.M.B.198 Garki Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Akinmolapo Oluwalana Esq.
Suite 16, Landmark Plaza, Plot. 3124 IBB Way, Maitama-Abuja.

SALVATION GATEWAY CHURCH

This is to inform the general public that the above named body has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The trustees are:

- Rev. Reuben Uzoagba
- Pastor Uba Emma Favour
- Evangelist Ebenezer Jude
- Brother Ejiasi Edwin
- Brother Nlebedum Paul
- Sister Oguji Justina

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Signed:
Secretary

UMUDIM NNEWIDEV. ASSO. LAGOS BRANCH EDUCATION FUND

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The trustees are:

- Chuka Elodimo - Chairman
- Godson Moneke - Secretary
- Vincent Anachebe
- Ike Okoli
- Leonard Udeh

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Signed:
George Oranuba

INTER-RELIGIOUS PEACE INITIATIVE (I.P.I.)

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The trustees are:

- Justice Abubakar Bashir Wali JSC (Rtd)
- Alh. Arisekola Alao (Are Muslimi of Yorubaland)
- Alh. Saka Olayiwola Babalola (Saraki Adini of Lagos)
- Sheik Hassan Bakry
- Alh. Habibu Aliyu
- Dr. Basheer Ibraheem Mohammed

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar- General Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5. P.M.B.198 Garki Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Fairfields Solicitors

SPORTS

Ranchers wallop JUTH

Ranchers Bees FC of Kaduna at the weekend made a case of its intent to return to the Premier League at the end of the season, when it walloped visiting JUTH FC of Jos 5-2 with Alhassan Ahmed Mada scoring a brace.

The Division One game started on a fast tempo with flurry of activities from both sides. But the game was largely restricted to the

By AbdulRaheem Aodu,
Sports Reporter

midfield where battles of skill and co-ordination ensued, even as the two goalkeepers were occasionally called to task.

The Aruwa Boys however, made their better composure tell as early as the fourth minute, when Sanusi Kabir opened scoring for them following a move that was begun in their half.

Midfielder Ternayougou Godwin doubled the score in the 30th minute through a penalty that was awarded for a foul by JUTH defender.

JUTH players came out to reduce the deficit and it paid off as they scored their first goal in the 36 minute from

Williams Adams. The first half ended 2-1 in favour of Ranchers Bees.

The second half also opened on a fast note, as both teams attempted to tilt the game in its favour, however it was the home team that responded better with two goals in four minutes.

Alhassan Ahmed scored again in the 47 minutes, just as Shuaibu Ahmed put the match beyond the reach of the visitors in the 50th minute with the team's fifth goal. JUTH made a rally too little too late in the dying minutes of the game, when Malaky Iloe waltzed his way through Ranchers' defence to make the score line more respectable with JUTH's second strike.



JUTH's Williams Adams dribbled his way through Ranchers defenders during their professional league division one match in Kaduna on Saturday.

Ofere shoots Rangers to first away win

Prodigal son Edward Ofere's late goal was enough to give

Rangers the first away win of the 2005 season on Saturday in a 1-0 victory at Niger Tornadoes. Ofere, the subject of a pre-season transfer dispute between Rangers and champions Dolphin, returned to Enugu two weeks ago and got his first start for the Antelopes. On 79 minutes, Ofere found himself with only Abba Destiny to beat and did so brilliantly before unleashing a thunderous shot that left keeper Emmanuel Achuka gazing.

The match had begun on a very slow pace until the 35th minute when Rangers capitalised on the homers defensive blunder having left Nonso Onyedgu unmarked but his shot was saved by Achuka.

Earlier, Tornadoes mounted pressure through Dio Bala, Nuhu Bala and Yaro Audu, for the greater part of the first half which had ended goalless.

On resumption, Tornadoes carved out some early chances through but failed to take any. Their best opportunity came from Chuba Shedrack, whose thunderous drive rattled off the crossbar.

Ofere had a good opportunity to put Rangers ahead earlier but headed wide from Nduka Ozokwor's cross.

Kwara win, rake in million

Obinna Okwu's goal at the death helped Kwara United secure a 2-1 win over Lobi Stars and keep their place at the top of the Nigeria Premier League. And the turnstiles provided even more joy for the home side as they raked in N1.2 million from gate-takings.

Femi Babatunde opened the scoring for United after

23 minutes, rising to head home from a deep, left flank cross as Kwara struggled to impose themselves on a well-oiled Lobi machine.

The Makurdi side got themselves a well-deserved equaliser ten minutes from half time, Onyekachi Okoye slipping home from a goalmouth scramble. And with time slipping away,

frayed nerves at the Ilorin Stadium were finally calmed when Obinna Okwu drove home from twenty yards a minute from time.

Kwara United coach Kadiri Ikhana was understandably pleased with the result, if not the play.

"It was a difficult game for us," he told KICK OFF.

"But we won, and that is the important thing." Club chairman Ayo Bello was also pleased about the result, and positively beaming about the gate receipts.

"We made N1.2 million from the gates," Bello told KICK OFF, and said he hoped to sustain the results, and the of course, keep the turnstiles turning



Ikhana, Kwara Coach

...pay N13.3m debt to coaches, players

The management of current Premier League leaders,

Kwara United, has paid N13.3m debt owed to five coaches and 21 players since 2000. The team defeated Lobi Stars 2-1 last Saturday to remain top of the Premier League table.

The management has last week directed coaches and players who were owed amount ranging from N200,000 to N1.2m to come forward to claim their money.

Kayode Aremu, who spoke for the Chairman of the Club, Dr Ayo Bello, said so

By Patrick Andrew,
Senior Sport Reporter

far 19 players and four coaches have signed and collected their money in Ilorin.

Only two players, Taofik Yusuf and Emeka Akwueme who are owed N300,000 each were yet to hit Ilorin to collect their money as at Saturday while the family of late coach Raymond Ogosi is to collect N900,000 at a ceremony at the Nigeria Football League office within the week.

Dr Bello was quoted as saying that the Kwara State government has made avail-

able the sum of N13.3m for the payment of debt arising from unpaid sign-in on fees to coaches and players that have accumulated since 2000 league season.

Dr Bello, who lauded Governor Bukola Saraki for providing the money, said it is not the intention of Kwara United to owe anybody adding that government plans to motivate and sustain the motivation of players to ensure that they give optimal performance in the league.

The Chairman of the club said Kwara United decided to clear the debt because they

do not want to encourage laxity from players, who might feel that management would

not reward hard work and dedication if it prove enable to pay sign-on fees.

Results Premier League			
Kwara Utd	2	Lobi Stars	1
Tornadoes	0	Rangers	1
3SC	0	Fayimbe	0
NPA	3	Sharks	1
Berger	2	Nasarawa Utd	1
Pillars	1	Gateway	0
English Carling Cup			
Chelsea	3	Liverpool	2



Ikpeba blasts Odegbami

African Footballer of the Year for 1997 Victor Ikpeba has branded Segun Odegbami as "jealous and a huge disappointment" following recent remarks by the former national team skipper in respect of the CAF awards.

Odegbami questioned the yardsticks that were used to pick Ikpeba as Africa's best player in 1997 in a national newspaper column while making a case for Austin 'Jay Jay' Okocha in the race for the 2004 edition of the award.

However, Ikpeba has

now hit back saying, Odegbami's comments are sour grapes and that he deserved to be crowned the best player on the continent eight years ago.

"Odegbami is only jealous of our achievements and he has lost my respect," lashed out Ikpeba in an exclusive interview with KICK OFF.

"Even though he never played professionally abroad, Odegbami was a great player and we all appreciate what he did for Nigerian football. We all respect him both as a player

and as a person but it's a big, big shame if he now does not want to appreciate the success of other people."

He added: "It's absolutely wrong and uncalled for that he is now personally attacking me because in 1997 I deserved to be picked as the best in Africa. My performance at Monaco in that year made me the best in Africa and one of the best in Europe as I was the only African player to be picked for the European Player of the Year.

"If Nigerians don't know what I'm worth, others do.

And he should therefore respect what happened after his time.

"It's not our fault that he did not win the award in an era where we also had other great players like Muda Lawal, Christian Chukwu and Henry Nwosu. There are many great players who did not win awards in their time but that does not take anything away from the fact that they were great stars."

While saying that Cameroon striker Samuel Eto'o Fils deserved his African Player of the Year Awards in 2003 and 2004, Ikpeba said Inter

Milan star Ohafermi Martins is one player who could go on to win the Fifa World Player of the Year.

"Martins is unstoppable and he could be one Nigerian player who could go on to be declared the best player in the world," Ikpeba offered. "As a Nigerian, I would have loved that Okocha is named the best in Africa but he had a better case in 1998 than in the last two years to be so picked."

"Eto and Didier Drogba play for the best teams in Europe who play in the Champions League. But I also know that Okocha is someone who will put behind him the disappointment of losing out of the awards thus far because he could still win it at some other time."

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DAILY TRUST

MONDAY COLUMN

Monday, February 28, 2005

EDITORIAL

National Confab: An inauspicious beginning

The National conference on political reform is expected to resume sitting today following its adjournment shortly after its inauguration a week ago. Delegates and indeed other Nigerians will be hoping that from now on the conference will be better organised in such a way as to achieve its aim within the 3 months time limit set for it by its convenor, President Olusegun Obasanjo. Among other things we hope that by the time it resumes, the conference will have a fully functioning secretariat and the necessary finances so that the leadership and delegates will be able to concentrate on the task before them.

This newspaper is disappointed that complaints by groups like the Jama'atul Nasril Islam, the umbrella body representing Nigerian Muslims does not appear to be taken seriously. The body, which took the trouble of writing to the President took exception to not just the obvious religious imbalance in the leadership of the conference, but also in the way a large number of Muslims in Southern Nigeria are not adequately represented. Such imbalance has led to a skewed representation which has left the numbers heavily loaded against Muslims nationwide. Up till this moment it does not appear as if the authorities consider these to be something that need to be redressed. Surely, such an approach is not likely to promote confidence in the conference and its outcome by groups which feel marginalised.

Apart from the sloppy preparation which necessitated the one week adjournment, this newspaper will like to share the observations expressed by many Nigerians about the inclusion of the Vision 2010 report alongside other documents that the conferees will need to study to prepare themselves for their own debates and recommendations. By common consent, the 2010 report contains detailed suggestion relating to most of the issues which the present conference is expected to cover. Its inclusion among other literature for the delegates will certainly enrich their debate and also make them realise that the problem with all these conferences and dialogues lie more in the honest implementation of their recommendation than in duplicating what has been done a long time ago.

One trend which seem to be emerging is that the current conference is going to be mainly concerned with the interest of the President who convened it and nominated a sizeable number of the delegates and the state governors who, on the whole, selected the biggest chunk of all the conferees. After the president has presented his own road map for the talks, complete with the no go areas of unity, federalism and presidential system of government, the governors have been arguing their own position which cuts across the regional cleavages under which they met and took their positions.

The meetings of both the Northern governors in Kaduna and their southern counterparts in Lagos at the weekend agreed that their delegates should oppose a return to regionalism which seeks to render the states and the positions they hold untenable. Reading all these, one is left to wonder about who will champion the best interest of the ordinary Nigerian who had no hand in the choice of the delegates or the outcome they will present on his behalf. This newspaper believes that there is no way this conference can lay claim to representing the interest of Nigerians when, as we understand it now even at the end of it all citizens will not have the chance to agree or disagree with its recommendations.

On the whole, we are worried that a forum which seeks to be the beginning of a stronger and more viable federation seems to be steadily undermined by its convenors. What remains to be seen is how the delegates themselves, in their debates and discussions, will either promote or dispel the notion that, in spite of all the claims to the contrary, there is indeed an agenda different from that openly declared at its inauguration last week.

The scramble for Nigeria

By Kabiru A. Yusuf
kabrufyusuf@daillytrust.com

The main issue that the National Political Reform Conference (NPRC) has to decide, for better or for worse, is, if and how, this country can be restructured to ensure greater autonomy for ethnic and regional groups. 200 years after the European scramble for Africa, 45 years after independence and 13 years after the cancellation of the June 12 election, proponents of "true federalism" have at least half a chance to make their dream come true. The main push is coming from the Yoruba, who already occupy a region and have the numbers and the economic backbone to strike out on their own. Other regions and ethnic groups are not that well-positioned, but they nevertheless seem attracted by the siren songs of regionalism where each group, they say, can develop at its own pace.

You would have thought that there would be loud cries of *amen* from the Northern region to this proposal. After all a huge chunk of the north, from Sokoto to Ilorin, Borno to Adamawa, used to belong to the same flourishing empire, which had a coherent ideology and functioning political structures. Some of these institutions, and certainly their cultural underpinnings, have survived colonial rule, and as the debate on the Shariah legal system demonstrated, are coexisting uncasily in the post-colonial state. A regional structure would give its people freedom to develop as they wish and not at the dictate of Western paradigm that seems to be the accepted model of other parts of Nigeria.

Indeed there are Islam-only activists in the region who for years have been campaigning for just such a break, but in the face of a consensus by the elites, they are keeping their heads down. But what explains the opposition of the northern political elites to calls for collapsing the 36 states into six, eight or twelve regions? The first problem is the perception that the proposal is not made in good faith, but is another ploy by the elites from the South to deny the north its due.

When Nigeria had, first, three, then four regions, in the 60s, some of the same voices now demanding for a return to federalism made their names by attacking an "omnibus north" on the pages of Lagos newspapers. In those innocent days after independence, southern politicians, with their law and philosophy degrees from western universities, thought that in spite of the advantages of numbers, they could get the better of their poorly trained northern counterparts. But they forgot that leadership is not just about education, but it is also about character and so a Grade-two teacher from Katsina College could do much better than alumni of Lincoln Inn.

So when the barrage of propaganda and campaigning by helicopter failed to deliver the goods, the south began to demand for 'power-shift', which is Nigeria's contribution to the lexicon of democracy. It means that since the south cannot legitimately win power through the ballot box, the presidency of the country should be conceded to it so that its people (who have been highly mobilized through propaganda) could feel a sense of belonging to the federation. Now faced with the prospects of a northerner winning the presidency in 2007, our ever-shifting brothers are changing tack. They want the country to be broken into bigger regions, with a weaker centre, which by the logic of modern politics will eventually become no centre at all.

From the northern point of view, the advocacy for regional autonomy has less to do with a desire for economic or cultural independence, but is all about the fear of so called "northern hegemony", which ironically is to translate into an effort to impose "hegemony" on the north. One other problem is that the north has for centuries been multi-cultural; that within it, as in the wider Nigeria, tribes and tongues do differ, though the majority speak Hausa as a lingua-franca and adhere to Islam as a religion. Unfortunately the revival of Islam that followed the Iranian revolution in the 80s has sharpened religious sensibilities in the region, with the substantial Christian minority often at dag-

gers drawn with their Muslim neighbours.

I suspect it is not only in the north that when the chips are down people must face the reality, that while it is difficult to live together; it is perhaps even more difficult for communities to be broken and rearranged into regions. Decades after the creation of States in all parts of Nigeria, including the western part of it, the sharing of assets has not been concluded. Imagine the scenario of a more through-going restructuring where for example Kaduna town is included in a Middle belt region, Ilorin is made part of the West and Port-Harcourt part of the Eastern region.

But advocates of such restructuring from the South seem to think that the main concern of the north is the potential loss of revenue from the Federation Account that is kept active by oil exports. That is why inevitably in the mind of most commentators restructuring goes together with "resource control", again a peculiar Nigerian terminology, which means that the Southern minorities should keep proceeds from oil exports since most of it comes from their localities.

The sudden loss of oil revenue will indeed have a huge impact on most states in Nigeria. That explains the rare cooperation between governors in the north and south-west in challenging the resource control suit brought to the Supreme Court by the oil-producing states. The lifestyle of our elites has been funded by this oil windfall, so governors from non-oil producing states should be expected to defend the status quo because it makes life easier. But it is clear that we cannot continue to live at the expense of tomorrow and if it would take the loss of oil revenue to bring us back to our senses, so be it.

So as the Political reform conference resumes this week, two meetings of governors from the north and south have highlighted the main issue it will grapple with. The southern governors in their "Lagos Summit 2005" over the weekend, while insisting on national unity, "urges members of the conference to also ensure that true federalism is entrenched in all facets of our constitutional law and practice". The northern governors, who had met in Kaduna last Friday, asked the delegates they nominated to the conference, to remain within the agenda set out in President Obasanjo's speech while opening the conference. According to the NGF "the present states structure should be retained and the current presidential system of government should equally be retained".

I learnt on good authority that some of the northern governors, including Makarfi, who is now chairman of the group, had earlier favoured the parliamentary system of government, which many of the old-timers that are representing the states at the conference hark back to with nostalgia. But after Obasanjo's ringing endorsement of the presidential system, it seems the governors have accepted it as a no-go area. Whatever it is I thought Makarfi's welcome address to his colleagues captures my sense of the mood in the north pretty well.

He said "northern respect for and belief in Nigeria remains unshakeable and we will continue to do all that we can for the continued wellbeing of the country but not at the perpetual expense of our people". In other words nobody should assume that we pay any price for the unity of Nigeria and if the north makes a concession out of respect and regard for the feeling of compatriots, this should not be used against it.

Perhaps it is too much to expect gratitude and good fellow feeling, but if one good turn does not deserve another, we risk eroding the very basis of our living together. As for those who imagine that when they succeed in creating their little Kingdom by the sea they will be free of the "Nigerian factor", I say look again. The virus may be closer to you than you think. It was St Augustine, I think, who said "more tears are shed over answered prayers than over unanswered ones". In other words, sometimes it is risky to fervently wish for a particular outcome, because God may grant your prayer and then your trouble is about to begin!