

DAILY TRUST

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VOL. 2 NO. 88 MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2001 RAMADAN 25, 1422 A.H. N50



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ABUJA TRUST
PRESIDENT OBASANJO'S
FCT TOUR
**Where he
did not visit**
Page 21

**RAMADAN TIMING
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Alfijir - 5:21 a.m
For other places see
details on
Page 18

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ALLEGATIONS OF ANTI-CHRISTIAN BIAS

VOA Hausa changes direction

A relentless media campaign has been going on against the Hausa Service of Voice of America (VOA), leading to administrative and editorial changes in the service, *Daily*

By Daily Trust Investigation Desk

EXCLUSIVE
Trust investigation reveals.

The campaign, which is being carried out mainly on the Internet by some

Christians, centres on the allegations that the Hausa Muslim staff of the station have been spreading pro-Muslim, anti-Christian and anti-American propaganda through the station.

An American newspaper, *The Weekly Standard*, reported last month that the campaign, which has been going on for sometime had already led to some administrative and editorial changes in the service.

The Online Editor of the paper, Mr. Jonathan V. Last, reported in the November 12 edition of the paper that it was in response to the anti-Hausa Muslims criticisms

that the VOA leadership, last August, appointed Mr. Sunday Dare, a Nigerian Christian to head the service.

The paper quoted the VOA Director, Mr. Robert Reilly, as saying, "we are aware of the problems (allegations of bias)" and are "paying very special attention" to the Hausa service.

It was part of paying such attention, the paper said, that the director expressed his

Contd. on Pg 2  President George Bush



President Olusegun Obasanjo (r) flanked by the Minister of Defence, Lt. General T.Y. Danjuma (third left) Taraba State Governor, Rev. Jolly Nyame and the Minister of State for Internal Affairs, Alhaji Mohammed Shatta, while cutting the tape to commission Taraba State Gas Plant Limited in Jalingo, the state capital ... recently. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

ELECTORAL LAW

No cause for alarm - Anyim

The Senate President, Chief Anyim Pius Anyim, has said there is nothing in the Electoral Law signed by President Olusegun Obasanjo that could warrant a negative consequence.

The Senate president told *Daily Trust* in Abeokuta that the new electoral law was duly considered by the two chambers of the National Assembly and they were certain there was no clause

Osama bin Laden's mother happy with son

The mother of Saudi dissident, Osama bin Laden, said in remarks published yesterday in the Saudi press that she was not angry with her son though she does not approve the "ambitions, ideas and actions attributed to him."

"I do not approve of the ambitions, ideas and actions attributed to him. But I deny what was attributed to me

Sani Babadoko and Olumide Bajulaiye, in Abeokuta that could be a threat to our nascent democracy.

"Ours is to make laws for the good governance of Nigeria and if we make laws

Contd. on Pg 2

How I was infected by Anthrax - Asaph Zadok

By Hammeed M. Bello and Buhari Bello, in Jos

The man at the centre of the recent anthrax scare that led to the arrest of ace journalist and broadcaster, Malam Abdulkareem Al-Bashir and three other staff of United Parcel Services (UPS), Mr. Asaph Zadok, insists that he got the disease through a parcel sent to him containing a booklet authored by Al-Bashir.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* in Jos, Mr. Zadok, who is also a journalist and at present, chairman of the

Contd. on Pg 2



Asaph Zadok

This is to inform and assure our numerous readers, distributors and advertisers that both our *Daily* and *Weekly* titles shall by the grace of God be on the streets throughout the forthcoming Sallah and Christmas holidays. We wish you many happy returns.



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NEWS

and anybody who thinks he can pick which ones to obey and which not to obey, that is no longer our business because we make laws but we do not execute the laws," he declared.

Chief Anyim said the National Assembly is not bothered by any threat. "All we know is that this democracy has come to stay," he added, saying that "we tried to explain that we are not against anybody, that we are not fighting anybody and that we are only doing what we think is best."

The passage of the Electoral Bill has attracted a lot of reactions. The main areas of contention are the extension of the tenure of local government council chairmen, the registration of new political parties and the order of elections.

Some people have sharply criticized the last minute amendment to Section 80(1) dealing with the registration of new political

dismay over the VOA Hausa service interview with Sheikh Dahiru Mohammed Bauchi on October 15, in which the Islamic scholar accused American forces of killing innocent Muslims in Afghanistan.

The paper quoted Mr. Reilly as describing the broadcast as "totally unacceptable."

Similarly, the paper said: "all broadcasts from the Hausa section are now being reviewed by both Dare and the regional director, Mr. Reilly."

The paper also reported that Mr. Dare had put in a performance audit as a result of which, "one of the Hausa service stringers was dropped and three others have been placed on three months probation."

The paper had earlier reviewed what it said were the criticisms against the Hausa service's pro-Muslim anti-Christian programming and hiring policies.

It said: "Nigerian Christians complain that the VOA perpetuates a subtle pro-Muslim bias, as when it exaggerates the size of the Muslim population in places such as Jos and interviews a disproportionate percentage of Muslims in 'man-on-the-street segments.'"

The paper also quoted an anonymous Christian missionary as saying that "several qualified indigenous Hausa Christians have applied to VOA but have been rejected because they are not Muslims."

After the paper's report that the criticisms had led to both editorial and administrative changes, the criticisms, however, still persist.

One Jerry Okaha, with an e-mail address

Electoral *Contd from Pg 1*

parties. President Obasanjo had proposed the amendment in a letter dated December 5, 2001, addressed to the Speaker of the House of Representatives in which he suggested that "a registered political party must win at least 15 per cent of the chairmanship and councillorship positions in the federation, spread among two thirds of the states and the Federal Capital Territory."

A joint harmonization committee of the National Assembly had provided in Section 80(1) that "any political party that fails to sponsor at least 15 per cent of the candidates for councillorship, council chairmanship and State Assembly respectively within the federation, spread over two-third of the states and the Federal Capital Territory, shall not be allowed to participate in the general elections."

VOA *Contd from Pg 1*

<jerryokaha@hotmail.com>, posted a letter on the Internet on November 23, 2001 entitled "VOA Hausa service; a disgrace to journalism and freedom," condemning its Muslim workers.

"It is a shame that American people are spending money to pay and maintain the VOA Muslim workers (Reporters and Producers in VOA Hausa Service), and yet they use this American generosity and instrument of freedom and democracy against other religions," he alleged.

Earlier, an American, who claimed to have lived at the permanent site of senior staff quarters of University of Jos but now lives in Seattle, U.S.A., Dr. Ronald B. Rice, had made similar allegations on October 29, 2001 and called for changes in the service.

"As long as journalism staff of the Hausa VOA are all Hausa Muslims, the news will never be objective and unbiased. That is by definition and by fact. It is impossible," he alleged.

"Unless at least half of the Hausa language VOA journalists are non-Muslims, their broadcasts will never be unbiased and balanced, and until that happens, the Hausa language VOA has no business being on the air and has no business being supported by the US government and U.S. taxpayers. It is as simple as that," he said.

But some articles posted on the Gamji website countered some of the criticisms against the Hausa Muslim workers of the VOA.

One of them came from

Giving his reasons in the letter, Obasanjo said it was "for the stability of the polity and the survival of our nascent democracy, it is imperative that only serious and credible political parties should be allowed to participate in the general elections." He said the acceptability of the political parties by Nigerians is by subjecting the parties to an initial electoral contest at the grassroots level.

Apparently, the leadership of the National Assembly agreed to the president's proposal and effected the amendment without debate or consent of the membership of the Senate or House of Representatives before President Obasanjo assented to it last Thursday.

This action, however, drew sharp reactions from some lawmakers. Stopping short of declaring the new electoral law a decree by the

Hannatu Mohammed who dismissed Okaha's article as being "full of hatred," and the *Weekly Standard* report as containing "too many inaccuracies."

She argued that the dominance of Hausa Muslims in the service was because "99 per cent of Hausa people are Muslims. But they also passed a test given by the VOA to all its language staff.

"Not only in VOA, all Hausa broadcasters in BBC and Voice of Germany are Hausa native speakers and they happen to be Muslims," she said.

"Of course, Christians have been complaining against the VOA programmes since the times of David, Connie and Steve (former non-Muslims heads of the service). But they have also always complained against the BBC, the Voice of Germany, and even against the FRCN, Kaduna. The complaints are not credible, they are mischievous and are factually incorrect," she added.

Another letter posted on the Gamji website by one Joshua B. Bwala on November 24, criticized the appointment of Sunday Dare as the new head of the Hausa service and the changes being introduced in its programming, claiming that such actions have led to the reduction of VOA audience in Nigeria.

"Many listeners in Nigeria are now turning more to BBC, Deutsche Welle, some even to Radio Iran as their sources of news and programmes," he said.

president, the Chairman House Committee on Justice, Human Rights and Legal Matters, Hon. Ibrahim Zailani, said the "version" which Obasanjo signed contained "smuggled items" alien to the "authentic version" of the one passed by the National Assembly.

Commenting on this at his weekly Senate briefing last week, Senate spokesman, Senator Jonathan Zwingina, said there was nothing wrong with the amendment as proposed by the president, pointing out that the harmonization committee deliberated on it before the amendment was effected.

"In a presidential system of government, the president is the chief lawmaker because he initiates most of the laws and when we pass it, he must sign it into law. Obasanjo acted in accordance with the rule of the National Assembly," Zwingina declared.

Section 80 (1) of the Electoral Law on new political parties now reads: "at the close of nominations

in the general elections, any political party which fails to sponsor at least 15 per cent of candidates for councillorship and council chairmanship and State Houses of Assembly respectively, throughout the federation spread among two-third of states of the federation and the FCT shall not participate in the general elections."

An addendum arising from Obasanjo's proposal says "provided that a newly registered political party shall first participate in the local government election and win at least 15 per cent of councillorship and chairmanship positions throughout the federation and spread among two-third of states of the federation and the FCT to be eligible to participate in federal and state elections.

This has not diminished the controversy surrounding the signing of the bill into law, especially by new political associations, which thought that the provision,

especially when seen against the provision that the presidential election shall come first.

Since the qualification by new parties to participate in the presidential, governorship, state and federal Houses depended on their performance at the local government elections, they are effectively precluded from those elections.

Meanwhile, the Alliance for Democracy (AD), has urged the president to clarify allegations that he tampered with the original bill, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports.

The party said at the weekend that there were indications that some provisions that were not in the original bill of the National Assembly were smuggled into it before the president's assent.

The party also called for the immediate resignation of the president if the allegations were correct.

Anthrax *Contd from Pg 1*

Board of Adamawa Press Limited (APL), Yola, said he definitely was infected with anthrax which was confirmed through the diagnosis done at the Veterinary Research Institute (VRI), Vom, near Jos.

His words: "Immediately I opened the envelope, I started flipping through the pages of the booklet and I saw a powdery substance which was then in the air and I was inhaling and I said I hope this is not anthrax.

"Before I knew it, I started feeling dizzy and some element of nausea and then I was having a very dry throat. Then I realized that I had goose pimples all over me. I had to call the driver to rush me to the

Osama *Contd from Pg 1*
that I am angry with him," the mother was quoted as saying.

"I, like all mothers, am satisfied and pleased with my son, and pray to God to guide him to the right path and save him," added the mother, whose name was not given in the report.

She also deplored media reports about the bin Laden family, which claims to have severed ties with Osama, her grandchildren and herself.

Bin Laden is accused of masterminding the September 11 terrorist attacks on the U.S.

He was stripped of his Saudi citizenship in 1994 after he refused to return to the kingdom.

hospital."

Zadok said he was not treated at the Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH) where he was first rushed to because of shortage of out-patient cards.

But at the Specialist Hospital, he said, "a doctor diagnosed me and said I should be given some drugs immediately to stem the probability that it could be anthrax because there was no valid test at the moment. Also, it was not possible to get all the lab specialists since anthrax is a new disease."

The doctor advised that Zadok's office be sealed up to stop more people from being infected.

According to Zadok, the confirmation came via the VRI which subjected the "exhibit" to laboratory tests.

He said he trusted the ability of VRI to undertake and confirm the tests. "I believe VRI, Vom, has the relevant technology to undertake that kind of test and give a truthful and honest result. The disease is not new to Vom because, if you recall, there was an outbreak of this disease in Ibadan and some people were treated."

He said the early treatment he received saved him. He added that the drugs administered on him were the same ones currently being used in the United States of America. He said the same drugs

were administered on all his staff.

Zadok, however, denied that he specifically mentioned Al-Bashir as the one who sent him the anthrax powder. "I don't think that even the police are saying that Al-Bashir is responsible. No."

He explains, further, "the fact is that the letter was sent to me at the instance of Al-Bashir and the information we got from him is that he was not the person who actually effected the postage through the courier service. There were some people who were doing that on his behalf in Zaria."

He, however, pointed out that in the course of investigation, the police had to arrest anybody they believe has some knowledge about how the parcel reached him.

Al-Bashir, who was picked up in Kaduna last week along with three staffers of UPS and driven to Jos has denied any involvement in the incident.

"I don't know anthrax and in fact, I have nothing to do with it. In any case, I won't have done that for whatever reason."

Meanwhile, Al-Bashir who hails from the same state, Adamawa, with Asaph Zadok, and the three UPS staff were granted bail by the police in Jos last Thursday, but were asked to report back today.

NEWS

JIGAWA POLITICAL CRISIS

Special Adviser resigns

Barely three weeks after the Jigawa State Deputy Governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Shehu Kwatalo, resigned from office, another top political office holder in the state has tendered his resignation.

The Special Adviser and Chief of Staff in the deputy governor's office, Alhaji Hassan Malam-Madori, resigned from office at the weekend even as speculations are high that many others may follow suit.

Sources in Dutse told *Daily Trust* that no fewer than 10 of the former deputy governor's political associates and sympathizers have been relieved of their position with no specific posting.

Most of the affected people, who are career civil servants, according to the source, are contemplating resigning to avoid being sacked by Governor Turaki's administration.

Top on the list of the deputy governor's associates relieved of their post included the permanent secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, an assistant general manager in JARDA, Chairman State Primary Education Board and secretaries of Hadejia, Taura and Kafin Hausa local government areas.

Suspected rapist, 19, jumps bail

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, in Lagos

Lagos Chief Magistrate Court has ordered for the arrest of a suspected rapist who jumped bail.

The accused, 19-year-old Frederick Peter, had been charged to the court for allegedly raping nine-year-old Miss Glory Munamun. The offence, alleged to have been committed on October 19, this year, is contrary to section 218 of the criminal code cap 32 vol. 2 laws of Lagos State, 1994.

The section provides for a life jail term with or without caning for anyone found liable for defilement of girls under 13 years of age.

The accused was dragged before Magistrate (Mrs.) Eniola Fabenwo on October 22 this year. He was released on bail in the sum of N1,500 with two sureties.

But at the resumed hearing, the accused was absent from the court. The prosecutor, Sergeant Nicholas Atumonye, applied that a bench warrant be issued for the arrest of the accused.

On the strength of this, the Magistrate ordered that wherever the accused was seen, he should be arrested and brought before the court.

- Kwatalo's associates allege victimization

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Dutse

Confirming his resignation, Alhaji Hassan Malam-Madori said he could not continue to remain in a government he felt has deviated from the principle of serving the people. He explained that he found himself being unnecessarily harassed and victimised by loyalists of Governor Turaki working in the government.

Alhaji Hassan, who is also a former special adviser on sports, alleged that a clique on a vengeance mission in the Turaki administration masterminded his demotion and subsequent relegation to chief of staff in the deputy governor's office.

The former adviser said he has been a long time political associate and friend of Alhaji Ibrahim Kwatalo, add-



Gov. Ibrahim Saminu Turaki.

ing that as a politician, he is also contemplating joining the PDP.

Reacting to the allegations of harassment and intimidation of Kwatalo's associates in Jigawa civil service, the state Special Adviser on Information, Alhaji Bala Ibrahim, said the allegations were baseless insinuations because most of the postings were done even before Kwatalo tendered his resignation. He stated that the exercise was a routine one, adding, "if the allegation is true, why is the immediate younger brother to Kwatalo who is a permanent secretary not affected?"

Meanwhile, the State chairman of the PDP, Alhaji Alto Roni, has said that Governor Saminu Turaki alone should not be blamed for the maladministration of the state.

He chastised the state House of Assembly for allowing for the governor's excesses, adding that the lawmakers have failed their electorate for allowing the passage of Turaki's 2000 and 2001 budgets without adequate explanation from the governor on how the money was spent, and where they were spent.

He challenged the governor to produce evidence of a project that cost the state government N100 million despite the billions of federal allocation to the state government.

Minister laments insecurity at ports

By Tashikalmah Hallah

The Minister of Transport, Chief Ojo Maduekwe, has expressed shock over the absence of security surveillance at the nation's ports and coastal waters, saying the nation is now at the mercy of "terrorist acts, sabotage, vandalism and illegal bunkering."

Chief Maduekwe, while on a tour of facilities at the ports at the weekend, lamented the activities of the vandals whom he accused of being responsible for the slow pace of social and economic transformation in the country.

The minister noted that the live wire of the Nigerian state is on its waters, "yet there seem to be no single protection of these facilities against external sabotage and acts of terrorism."

He described as shameful the situation whereby Nigerian waters "lay naked before vultures of Nigerian landscape."

According to him, the porous nature of security operation at the ports, the oil companies and other companies that have operations on the shores has made it diffi-

cult for their activities to be monitored through small search and rescue operations.

Chief Maduekwe, while advocating integrated security operations at the nation's gateways to stop the looting of resources, also promised to liaise with relevant security agencies to harmonise a common approach to "this disgrace on our waters."

The minister, however, said that the present administration has the will to eliminate the problem.

In the interim, he said, the



Chief Maduekwe.

Striking doctors in the service of Katsina State government have vowed to continue with their one-week-old strike, even as they appealed to traditional rulers, opinion leaders and other stakeholders to wade into the matter and bring the stand-off to an end.

The Acting Chairman of the Katsina State branch of the Nigeria Medical Association (NMA), Dr. Ahmed Hamza, who spoke to newsmen shortly after the meeting of the association at the weekend, accused the state government of insensitivity to the doctors' situation and the plight of patients in the state.

Describing the doctors' demands as "legitimate and reasonable," he explained that they embarked on the strike following the state government's refusal to im-

Striking doctors urges rulers' intervention

From Abdul Labaran, in Katsina

plement the agreement reached between the Federal Government and the national headquarters of the association last year even as most states and the Federal Government have since implemented same.

Dr. Hamza said that what the state government offered to the doctors was far short of what is in the agreement and "therefore unacceptable" to them. He, however, said that the doctors were prepared to call off the strike if government will accept the modification they made to its offer that was discussed between the representatives of the two parties.

He said that government's response to the doctors' strike contradicted its touted commitment to improving health care delivery in the state and its concern for the general well-being of the citizenry, particularly against the backdrop of the governor's recent claim that the state has about N5 billion deposited in banks.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the Katsina-based NGO, 'Hospital Friends,' Alhaji Bilya Sanda has appealed to both the state government and the striking doctors to settle their differences so as to end the week long industrial action, which, he said, is threatening the health sector in the state.

Violent protest throws Benin into confusion

From Shehu Abubakar, in Benin City

Hundreds of motorcyclists staged a violent demonstration yesterday in Benin City, the Edo State capital, following the murder of a commercial motorcyclist by some people alleged to be armed mobile policemen on night patrol.

Mr. Osaro Iyiriah, 35, was said to have been shot on the head, and instantly dropped dead from his motorcycle, a Yamaha with registration number ED 6629 BD, while conveying a passenger to a nearby street.

Bonfires were set all over the major streets of Benin with hundreds of motorcyclists and sympathisers taking to the streets singing

solidarity songs and condemning the police.

Briefing newsmen in the premises of Benin Central Hospital, where Osaro's body was said to have been deposited, Mr. Friday Iyiriah, who identified himself as the immediate elder brother of late Osaro, alleged that the police were responsible for his brother's death!

Mr. Iyiriah said the state commissioner of police had yesterday morning invited relations to the deceased to his office and apologised to them, promising that the matter will be thoroughly investigated and action taken as the entire patrol team were arrested and detained in the state Criminal Investigation Department.

A female member of the deceased's family also showed newsmen three used empty shells of ammunitions allegedly used by the police

at the scene of the incident.

A team of armed mobile policemen in a police armoured car with registration number PF 2903 ^{1/2} and three "Operation Wipe" MAZDA vans stormed the scene of the incident yesterday afternoon, shooting into the air and throwing canisters of teargas smoke to scare the crowd.

After about two hours of waiting by newsmen at the Police Headquarters in Benin City to get the police side of the story, the State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Yekini Jimoh, who was said to be away by a personal aide in his office, was seen leaving the office in a cream flowing gown in his official car, avoiding the journalists.

The Command Public Relations Officer, ASP Akan Ezima, who arrived the headquarters on a bike was seen rushing out of the premises on the same bike, shortly after exchanging pleasantries with the waiting pressmen.

APP, political associations in secret talks

By Henry Omonu

Faced with the prospects of not being registered by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for the 2003 federal elections, some of the new political associations in the country have begun holding talks with the All Peoples Party (APP) for possible merger.

Sources told *Daily Trust* that associations such as the United Nigeria Democratic Party (UNDP), the National Democratic Party (NDP) and the Peoples Liberation Party (PLP) had reached out to the top echelon of the APP to hold merger talks.

The chances of reaching an agreement on the merger talks brightened last Thursday when President Obasanjo signed the Electoral Act into law.

Clause 80(1) of the bill states that "for any political

association to be registered and contest general elections, it must field at least 15 percent of the candidates for councillorship, chairmanship and state assembly respectively spread across two-thirds of the states of the federation.

"Moreover, such an association must further win a certain percentage of councillorship and chairmanship positions in two-third of the states of the federation, including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), to be eligible to participate in any general election."

Similarly, with the order for the 2003 elections scheduled to begin with the presidential polls, the likelihood of any of the political associations fulfilling the provisions of the Electoral Act can only be attained in 2007.

A chieftain of the APP.

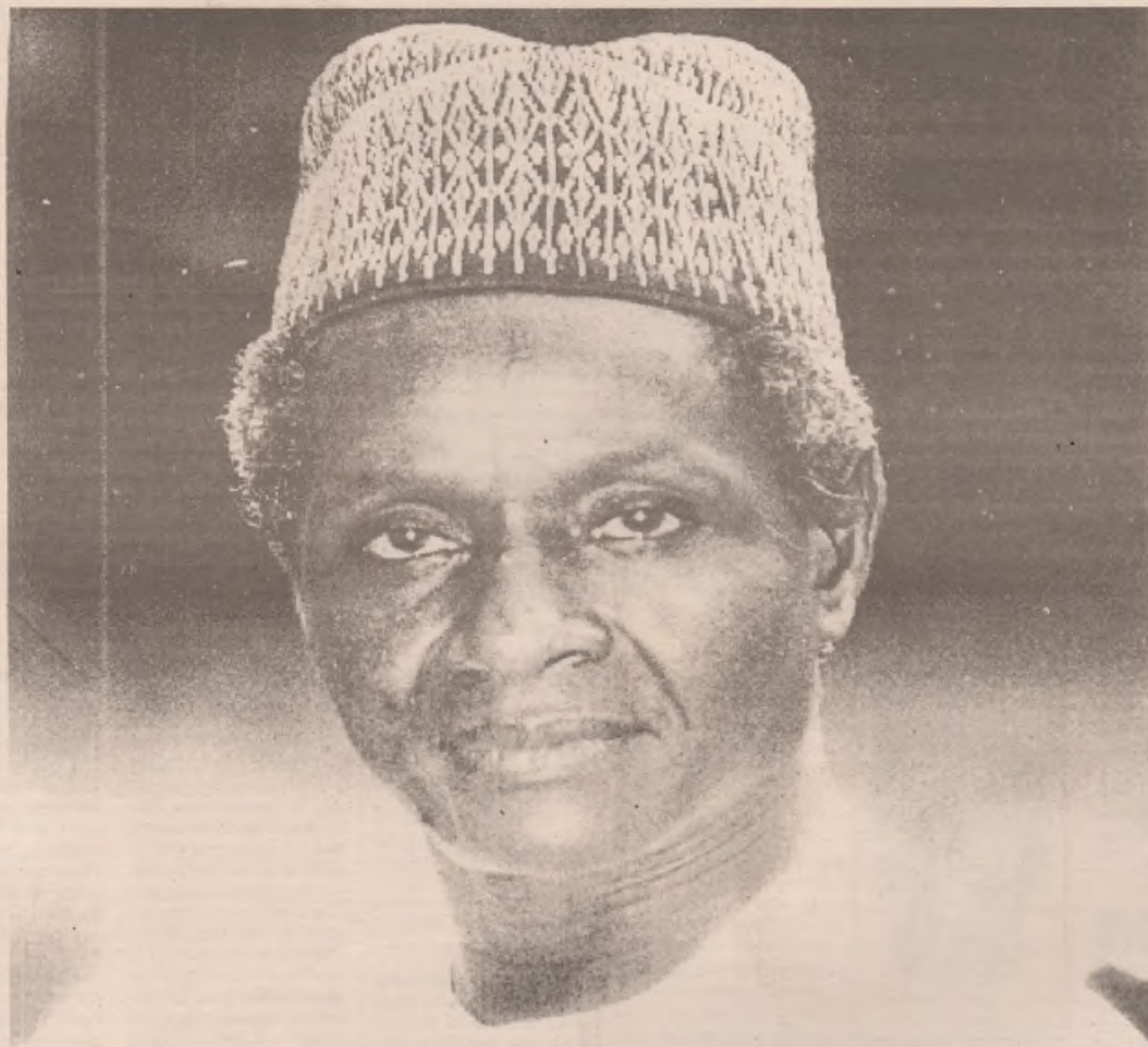
who preferred anonymity, confirmed to *Daily Trust* in Abuja at the weekend that politicians have approached his party from some of the political associations even before the passage of the Electoral Act.

Even though he refused to name the associations involved in the merger talks, the APP stalwart expressed support for the Electoral Act, maintaining that the APP will be the major beneficiary of the non-registration of new parties.

"We knew this was going to happen, and some of the political associations have been holding secret talks with us," he said.

But some APP top members are sceptical of the talks and have expressed fears that members of the political associations fusing into the APP might hijack the machinery of the party to the exclusion of those of them who have persevered with the party during its travails.

REALLY HONOURED



General (rtd.) Shehu Musa Yar' Adua
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As I awake daily to take on the fresh challenges of statecraft that you so ably guided us through, I cannot but continue to marvel at the depth of your insights and the quality of your commitment.

Were you alive today, I can testify that you would have been in the trenches with us, building a greater Nigeria forged on your all-consuming philosophy of NATIONAL PURPOSE. Tafida, you are dearly remembered.

REST IN PEACE

- Atiku Abubakar

News Focus

Two journalists and the Anthrax scare

By Hameed Bello and
Buhari Bello

On Thursday, November 29, Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Environment, Mercy Alumona, received an official envelope marked "Federal Ministry of Communications." When the envelope was opened, it contained a white powdery substance. It did not take long before news spread that the substance in the envelope was anthrax. Other members of the House who received a similar parcel include; Chairman, House Committee on Communications, Nduka Irabor, and Rep. Ned Nwoko.

In the Senate, Deputy Senate President, Ibrahim Mantu, received a suspected anthrax-laden envelope on December 6, while a week earlier, Senate Whip, Stella Omu, and the AD Senate Whip, Gbenga Ogunniya, received "anthrax" envelopes in their offices.

So far, all Senators and members of the House of Representatives are treating the matter as a huge joke.

However, while the joke lasts, a Nigerian journalist was arrested in Kaduna last week over allegations that he sent anthrax to a fellow journalist in Jos. The arrest, detention and bail, has gone into the records as the first arrest over anthrax in Nigeria since the scare of the biological terrorism became noticeable after the September 11 attacks on the United States.

But would a Nigerian send anthrax to another Nigerian, and for what reasons? Amidst these questions, Malam Abdulkarim Al-Bashir, journalist and public commentator, was picked up in Kaduna last week by intelligence officers over allegations that he sent anthrax to another Nigerian via the popular United Parcel Service (UPS). He and three staffers of UPS were bundled to Jos where the recipient of the anthrax-laden parcel and the complainant, Mr. Asaph Zadok, also a journalist and public commentator, lives.

There are curious similarities between Al-Bashir and Asaph. Both men are from Adamawa State. Both too, are journalists, one based in Kaduna and the other, Jos. When Col. Yohanna Madaki and later Group Captain Jonah David Jang invited Al-Bashir to suspend his radio programme, "In Focus", at FRCN, Kaduna, and pioneer *The Weekly Scope* under the Gongola Press Limited (GPL), Yola, in 1986, Asaph was a student activist at the University of Maiduguri.

Al-Bashir moved quite rapidly: from pioneer Managing Editor, to pioneer Managing Director. It was when Al-Bashir became the chairman

of the board of the company, the second after Panuel Magomya, this time it had been re-christened Adamawa Press Limited (APL) following the creation of Taraba State in 1990, that Asaph came into the company as a features writer and the later the Features Editor. Today, Asaph is chairman of the same board Al-Bashir left behind.

As far as Asaph is concerned, Al-Bashir, his kinsman, sent him the deadly anthrax and that he barely survived the attack following quick and effective treatment and may be, luck. Following Asaph's complaints lodged with the police in Jos, Al-Bashir was picked up in Kaduna last Thursday and driven to Jos for interrogation.

Whether Al-Bashir truly sent anthrax to Asaph is for

conflicts in ABU, Zaria. I found it difficult to reconcile of what relevance it is to me bearing in mind that I did not go to ABU, Zaria.

"And when I discovered that the author was Al-Bashir, then, I had almost started getting dizzy. I expected that there would be some kind of explanatory correspondence as to why the booklet is being sent to me, maybe it is due for launching, wanting me to play a role or to review it. There was nothing apart from the booklet."

Pressed further Asaph explained: "Immediately I opened the envelope, I started flipping through the pages of the booklet and I saw powdery substance which was then in the air and I was inhaling and I said I hope this is not anthrax."

He added that, "before I knew it, I started feeling dizzy and some element of nausea

'exhibit'.

He stated that after the exhibit had been subjected to laboratory test, the result had indicated that it was anthrax.

On whether Nigeria has the equipment and skill to diagnose and treat anthrax, Asaph was optimistic in the capability of VRI, Vom, to treat the disease.

Said he: "The Vom Veterinary Institute deals with animal diseases and I believe there is no animal disease that is common to animals anywhere that they would not make efforts to find out how those diseases can be discovered, or that they don't have the equipment for doing the appropriate test.

"I believe VRI, Vom, has the relevant technology to undertake that kind of test and give a truthful and honest result. The disease is not new to Vom because if you can recall there was an outbreak of this disease in Ibadan and some people were treated."

Commenting on how he recovered quickly from the attack, Asaph said that the immediate and sudden arrest of the disease was made possible particularly because the drugs administered on him were those being used in United States of America at the moment.

According to him, the early treatment he received saved him. And that the same type of drug was administered on all his staff to neutralise possible attacks.

Asaph stated that contrary to newspaper reports that somebody in Jos alleged an anthrax attack, it was not an allegation. Rather, he said, "even before the first arrest was (made), the result of the test had been confirmed as anthrax."

On the question of how sure he was certain that it was Al-Bashir, and not any other interference in the delivery and receipt of the parcel that was responsible for putting anthrax in it, Zadok said: "I don't think that even the police are saying Al-Bashir is responsible, no!"

He pointed out that, "the fact is that the letter was sent to me at the instance of Al-Bashir and the information we get from Al-Bashir is that he was not the person that actually effected the postage through the courier service; there were some people who were doing that on his behalf in Zaria."

He, however, stated that in the course of investigations, the police had to arrest anybody they believe has some knowledge about how the parcel reached him.

On his relationship with Al-Bashir, Asaph said he had a stint with him in about 1986



Asaph Zadok

at *The Scope* newspaper, when Al-Bashir was General Manager. Since then, according to Asaph, they have not met, and that Al-Bashir did not know his address in Jos, a reason for which he said he was surprised to get a parcel from him.

As to whether he still has symptoms of the disease, he said he believed he had been treated following prescription from a competent doctor whose credentials he did not doubt. He reiterated that he believed that drug administered to him was the best antidote for the disease anywhere in the world.

Pressed by *Daily Trust* that he may have been used by government agencies or a political class to settle scores with Al-Bashir, considering his critical stance on issues, Asaph felt differently. "I don't think it is the government of Plateau State that Al-Bashir has been overtly critical about for them to implicate him one way or the other. When I was attacked I did not go to the government, but (to) the hospital," he said.

Furthermore, he said that anybody who knows him well is aware that he is not in the good books of government. He added that he was arrested and detained by this government for five days over allegations of causing insurrections or attempts to cause rupture in governance.

Meanwhile, Al-Bashir has denied knowledge of the deadly disease.

Speaking with *Daily Trust* at the police headquarters in Jos where he had been released on bail, last Thursday, Al-Bashir said, "I don't know anthrax and in fact, I have nothing to do with it," adding that "in any case, I won't have done that for whatever reason."

He told *Daily Trust* in Jos that the controversial parcel arrived Jos October 29, and was delivered October 30.

According to him, the anthrax suspicion did not come up until November 30, about 30 days after the delivery, a reason he said makes him think there is more to the controversy than meets the eye.

The controversial parcel, Al-Bashir disclosed, which contained a copy of a booklet which he authored, entitled: "The Ethnic Politics of Borisade and Babalola against the Rule of Law and Progress in the Ahmadu Bello University" was sent to Asaph when he (Al-Bashir) heard of Asaph's appointment as Chairman of Board of Directors of Adamawa Press Limited.

The reason for sending the booklet, he said, was to renew a long relationship that was broken between him and Asaph.

He said 42 copies of the booklet were sent through the same UPS, signed by one Salihu Abubakar on his behalf, to various recipients. He said that none of the recipients have complained of anthrax attack, in addition to about 50 copies sent to the Presidency and about 25 to the Office of the Vice-President.

Meanwhile, the Plateau State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Fatai Fagbemi, whom *Daily Trust* contacted for comment, stated that it would be premature for him to say anything, as he had not been properly briefed. Investigation continues and today, Al-Bashir and the three UPS staff, released on bail, are expected to report at the police headquarters in Jos by which time the commissioner said he would be able to speak on the matter.

However, Yahaya Mahmud, counsel to Al-Bashir who stood as surety for his bail, said he suspected a foul play in the controversy.

Specifically, he said that he doubts the capability of VRI, Vom, in curing anthrax.



Asaph Zadok explaining a point during the interview

the police to unravel, but what boggles the mind is for what reasons will he send anthrax to Asaph, his kinsman from the same state, his younger brother in journalism, one of his successors in Adamawa Press Limited and both of them members of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF)?

Asaph told *Daily Trust* in Jos at the weekend, "I don't think there is any misunderstanding between me and Al-Bashir" as he explained the genesis of the anthrax riddle.

"I received a letter through the courier service... my immediate preoccupation was to see it, because I anticipated it would have come from Arewa Consultative Forum because they always send me invitations for meetings by courier. Apart from that, I did not envisage that there could be anything ominous about the postage until I opened it and saw that it was a booklet on ethnic

and then I was having a very dry throat. Then I realised that I had goose pimples all over me. I had to call the driver to rush me to the hospital.

"I was in the Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH) for nearly 20 to 30 minutes. There was nobody to attend to me because they said they had run out of cards. Then I was rushed to the specialist hospital where the doctor there diagnosed me and said immediately that I should be given at least some drugs to stem the probability that there could be anthrax because there was no valid test at the moment. It was not possible to get all the lab specialists since anthrax is a new disease."

According to Asaph, the doctor advised that his (Asaph) office be sealed up, after which some government officials and others from the Veterinary Research Institute (VRI), Vom, came to clear the

Opinion

Re: Miss Taliban turns model

By Yakubu Nda-Abubakar

Reading through the *Sunday Tribune* of 2nd December 2001, page 24, that is the Hers Column with Tayo Ligali and Folasade Taiwo makes every sensible human being very sad. If this is actually the type of freedom that the West and their cohorts in this country (Tayo and Folasade) are advocating for women then we should be bracing up for a world filled up with moral decadence.

Any sensible human being that takes a look at these two pictures of one purported Hai Ry Marce the so-called Miss Taliban 2001, will agree that she lost her senses soon after the Taliban government was ousted. If not a mad woman I don't think any right thinking human being can pose for the press like that.

Tayo and Folasade who are champions of women liberation should lead by example equally posing nude and semi-nude so that other women, most especially the Islamic women they are hell-bent on converting to their wayward life can equally follow suite.

As a Muslim, I never for once take *Tribune* as a serious newspaper, because for one they are anti-Islam, in their stance. Many a times they make inciting statements that it only takes Allah's grace to avert crisis. Thus I am the least surprised to see the 'Miss Taliban' story in their paper.

I only made this rejoinder to make Tayo and Folasade (both southern Christians) to see the difference between a right thinking human being and a mad person. If their religion allows such immorality, Islam forbids such in its highest order.

The world would be a better place to live in if decency is given the utmost attention. The issue of sexual harassment in our offices, schools and places of worship (not mosques) would have been at a minimal level.

May Allah reward those brave Taliban who lost their lives in the cause of Allah with *Aljana Firdausi*. And to the Northern Alliance, may Allah guide them on to the right path and may Allah make them realise their mistakes. And to the American and Western infidels and their cohorts in Algeria and elsewhere in the world, may Allah help them to see the truth and if they are not among those to be guided on the right path, may Allah pay them back in their own coin.

Yakubu Nda-Abubakar is a staff of Daily Trust.

Nnamani and the search for a new direction

By Emeka Nwosu

For quite sometime now, the Governor of Enugu State, Dr. Chimaroke Nnamani, has become a constant feature within the lecture circuit. At the last count he has presented about five well-researched papers on engaging but oftentimes difficult and intellectually tasking subjects of contemporary national relevance.

As a student of society and politics, I have followed with considerable interest the lecture-series of Dr. Nnamani and the body of thoughts and ideas he has been articulating and expanding. These ideas, no doubt, are aimed at promoting the culture of excellence and dialogue in our polity and politics which for a very long time has suffered from intellectual poverty.

The recent outing of Governor Nnamani at the historic tin city of Jos whose innocence and serenity were recently violated was both instructive and remarkable. It was an invitation by the Plateau State chapter of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ). Nnamani present a paper on a topic *The Press, the Faith and the State*, which was widely considered dry and, abstract but surprisingly for a physician, Dr. Nnamani somehow managed to breathe life into the topic so that by the time he finished the entire

audience, comprising many distinguished Nigerians spontaneously rose on their feet, on the conclusion of the presentation, to give him a resounding applause.

Among the dignitaries that thronged the venue to listen to the lecture were Senator Venmak Dangin who chaired the occasion, Alhaji Yahaya Kwande, Professor Dakum Shown, Speaker of Plateau State House of Assembly in the Second Republic, Colonel Mike Torey, (rtd.), former military governor of Enugu State, Mr. Ezekiel Gomos, Secretary to Plateau State Government, Professor Onyeka, Deputy vice chancellor, University of Jos, the Eze Igbo in Plateau State, His Royal Highness Eze Ejembi with his retinue of redcap chiefs and many others.

In his presentation, Governor Nnamani sought to demystify governance and redefine the purpose of leadership. He accepts the time-tested theories of the social contract philosophers like Thomas Hobbes, John Locke and Jacques Rousseau who, in time past, argued that those who hold power do so in trust and that the legitimacy of the authority they exercise derives from a social contract in which the people

voluntarily and collectively submit to a sovereign who, in exchange, ensures the protection of their fundamental freedoms and welfare. In the absence of such an ordered arrangement, chaos and anarchy would reign supreme. Thomas Hobbes had described such a society as the "state of nature" in which life was bound to be "short, brutish and nasty".

Governor Nnamani urged those whom God has placed in leadership positions to show faith in the covenant, contending that the social contract enjoins them to serve the common good. He described power as being transient and ephemeral, which therefore imposes on the leadership a challenge to serve the greatest good of the greatest majority.

The point he seemed to be making here is that those who seek the mandate of the people to serve must be propelled by a consuming desire to serve the common good. And since everything about life is transient, Governor Nnamani posited that those in positions of leadership should learn to quit the stage when the ovation is loudest. He expressed concern that some self-styled political leaders and god-fathers were still dancing in the political arena even when it has become obvious that their legs are tired. Such people,

who, in my own estimation, constitute a distraction in the political process, should take the honourable way out so that the society can benefit from fresh and creative ideas.

His analysis of the recent ethno-religious crises in several parts of the country and particularly Jos, was thought provoking, as it was incisive. He showed a good grasp of the underlying forces that give rise to the clashes, putting the blame squarely on the failure of leadership and the state.

The resort to native consciousness in the critical struggle for control and allocation of values by competing political interests have always been the bane of the post-colonial state. It is within this prism that the ravaging ethnic and religious clashes can be clearly located.

The leadership failure as adduced by Governor Nnamani aligns with the proposition of Professor Chinua Achebe who in his treatise, "The Trouble With Nigeria" argued that the crisis of nationhood stems from the absence of intellectual rigour in national leadership. It therefore follows that if we are to overcome the jinx and break new grounds, there is a compelling need for the redefinition of leadership purpose in Nigeria.

Emeka Nwosu wrote in from Abuja.

Re: Oil windfall palaver

By Yushau Abdulhameed Shuaib

I read with interest a full page argument raised by Mr. David Edevbic in *Thisday* of November 12, 2001 titled "Oil windfall palaver." The writer failed to understand how the media operates on feature contributions when he took my article in one of the dailies rather too personal to question my command of language and credential to occupy a public relations position. It may interest him to note that the same article was, apart from being published in the *Vanguard* of October 22, was also in several national dailies which include the *Tribune* of October 11, *Daily Trust* of October 15, *Post Express* of October 22, *Daily Times* of October 30, *Anchor* of October 18, the *Comet* of October 18, and a related article in the *Punch* of September 25, 2001.

It is quite unfortunate that the writer took the issue too confrontational and quite intimidating which have no effect in my zeal to make my personal contribution in national discourse. In as much as I am not a person who blows his trumpet on his writing skills and achievements, I wish to State that I neither have the type of Toronto nor Chicago certificate, but I am a proud home based graduate in Mass Communication with several awards to show for my skill in the chosen profession. My few years in the service, were purely on merit.

Perhaps, it may surprise Mr. David that, in Delta State where he is presently the Hon. Commissioner of Finance, I won several awards between 1992-1994 for accomplishment in writing and research. I received the Automatic Scholarship for the best corps writer conveyed to me by Chief Paulinus Akpeki, the then Special Adviser on Information. Governor Felix Ibru, the first executive governor also offered me automatic employment in Delta State civil service. In the subsequent administration I was recommended and posted to the Government House as information officer. I resigned voluntarily from Delta State civil service after winning the prestigious national NYSC award as the best corps writer in the federation. The record is there for you to verify. Most of the awards and subsequent ones are based on my humble literary contributions in the media towards better understanding of the public on socio-political and economic issues which has been my hobby for years. One of my award-winning researches is titled "Alternative Media of Information for Delta State."

It seems Mr. David lacks understanding on public relations and journalism Addresses and designations of writers, which at times are acknowledged, constitute one of the mandatory requirements for literary contributions to some of the media. That there are some errors in the write-up, sounds very mischievous as he is indirectly indicting the editors for not proofreading the material before publication. Even in yours, in one paragraph alone (last paragraph column two) there are such spelling mistakes as 'admi?istering, if-e federatior, acome, other that' what, ' same in several places in the write-up. Such oversights do occur even in international and widely read journals. Mistakes are bound to occur in the face of volumes of contributions received by the media nationwide. The Hon. Political Appointee needs to visit one of the media houses to appreciate and understand some of their constraints and why the newsroom is described in some quarters as butcher slab and mad room I have the right to express myself as a Nigerian on the ills in the society and have no apology to anyone. That my address appears in some of the features does not mean, I write on the instruction of my organisation, but purely personal opinions and lay on the discretion of the editors. Please check *Thisday* of November 4, 2001 on one of such views I expressed on sensitive

issues of national and international importance.

On his other unsubstantiated, half-baked facts and frivolous innuendoes on the issue of oil windfalls, Mr. David obviously tried to read the points upside down as there was no place where I said the amount should not be shared to the beneficiaries, but that there is the need to save for rainy days since the revenue is coming in torrents. Recently we are witnesses to the oil price which has dwindled to its lowest in two and half years. What would be the fate of the allocation from federation account if it further goes down without any form of special reserve, since most of the beneficiaries rely heavily on statutory disbursement?

Since the excess revenue is an unexpected and unbudgeted proceeds to the national coffers, it is necessary to keep the fund to take care of the rainy day so as to guard against its abuse and misappropriation. It is recommended that once a budget is passed for implementation by Houses of Assembly at all levels, all other excesses acquired above the expected revenue should be saved in special account for subsequent fiscal seasons. This would enable the relevant tiers of government prepare comprehensive and achievable budget proposals for the economic rejuvenation and for the betterment of the electorate and populace in the following financial periods.

It is surprising to learn that the country in this democratic dispensation is so blessed that monthly allocation from federation account in recent time, excluding the excesses, has reached an average of over N90 billion against the less than N30 billion shared during the preceding military governments. Even some states are so lucky that they received their allocations in billions of naira, courtesy of the derivation principle. The last disbursement, included the allocation of proceeds from GSM and part of the oil windfall. Yet many are asking where is the dividend of democracy apart from frequent tussles on the sharing of the national cake.

It is ridiculous that Mr. David termed the generality of the public as ill-informed on the issue as he failed to realize that the public at all tiers are more educated and more enlightened on the reality on ground than to rely on political rhetoric and theoretical frameworks, which are exercises in futility. I have read some of his articles and interviews, as an apostle of revenue formula, especially the one in the recently published book *Business Adventure*, where his positions on every issue are purely academic, bookish and theoretical which are hardly realisable and achievable in reality.

With due respect and regards to Governor James Ibori, I doubt if Mr. David, as a political office holder, ever admitted to the public that Delta State receives the highest allocation from Federation Account which, unlike with other states, runs into billions of naira every month. He will agree with me that the fund is comparable and enough to sustain three states in a month. The last allocation to Delta State, for instance, as announced by the Federal Ministry of Finance was more than N2 billion. When there are figures like this, the question to be addressed by an officer of his intellectual calibre is how do they justify the revenue for the benefit of the electorate. That is what the public he called ill-informed want to know.

Many arguments and debates have been made on contentious issues of the oil windfall. The Central Bank, the International Monetary

Fund, the labour groups and manufacturers have cautioned against the disbursement saying it may cause galloping inflation, dislocate the financial equilibrium, increase unemployment rates and further dwindle the value of local currency. The reasoning is agreeable when one considers the cry of President Olusegun Obasanjo on happenings in some places and wonders if the beneficiaries would be able to judiciously and appropriately spend the money for worthwhile capital projects towards creating employment opportunities and minimise higher level of corruption.

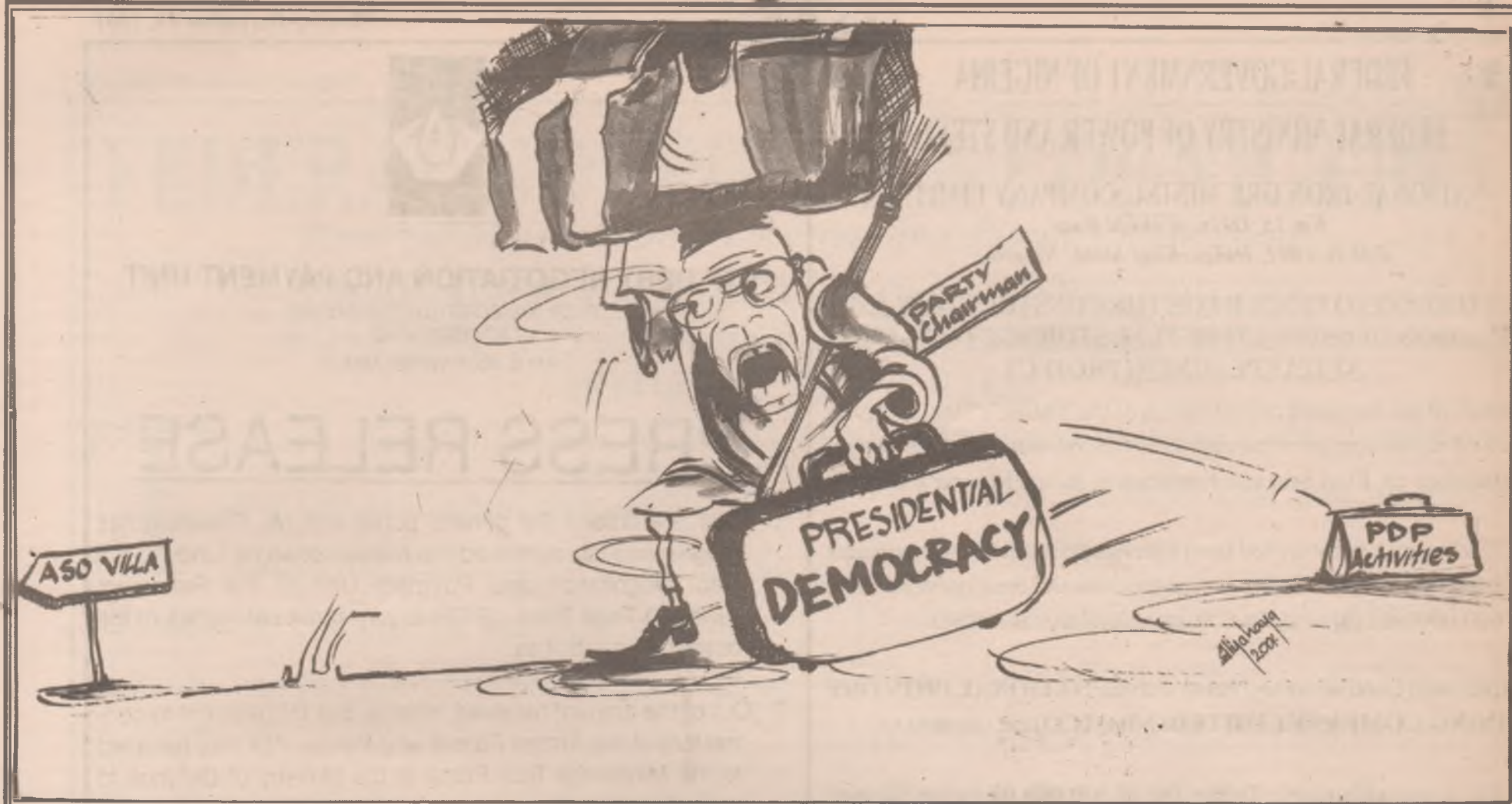
Other arguments for the disbursement, came from some bankers, who professed to have the capacity to invest the fund for infrastructural developments and to protect the financial sectors from further distress. The state governments too were not left out. Some of the chief executives have declared that they might deny their workforce the monthly remuneration to drive home their agitations for the immediate disbursement of the fund. Indeed Governor Ahmed Bola Tinubu, who seemed to speak the mind of the state governors, made a remarkable and well researched article titled "Use and misuse of Nigeria's oil windfall - myth and reality" where he reasoned that the Federal Government has no constitutional or legal right to impound or save on behalf of other tiers, federally collected revenue due to other beneficiaries of the federation accounts. He argued further that the federal government has no proof to be a better economic and financial manager. He also substantiated his arguments with some obvious fact. What a better way of engaging on healthy dialogue for public goodwill and sympathy on their plights.

I did point out that the excess earning is not the first time the country would witness huge manna from heaven which is not through any technique of intensive revenue efforts, but by sheer luck of providence. The accruals had occurred severally during the military dictatorships where accountability, transparency and openness of governance were never observed by the imperious administrations. But that such unwholesome incidents should not rear its ugliness into the present democratic dispensation when we have statutory institutions on ground mandated to determine the utilization of such funds for the benefit of the populace.

It is unfortunate that while the likes of Mr. David continued to clamour for disbursement of revenue from oil, it seems they are not bothered to ponder that the country needs to diversify to other sectors because of over reliance on the earning from oil which makes all the economic variables and indicators to exclusively depend on it. It has served as the catalyst for our credit worthiness, foreign reserve, government revenue profile, gross domestic products, real income, foreign exchange transaction, and also the only means of sustenance of many states and local governments in the country. This is in fact the disease which our leaders should try and resolve for future generations. After all we have seen many countries booming without a single drop of oil. Nigeria can do better with the will and desire of the leadership toward the lofty dream.

While I strongly believe that the veritable tool for general acceptability of public officers is through truthful dialogues, unbiased information and selfless service to humanity. It is only through these that the public becomes more informed and beneficiaries of the democratic dividends and never through cheap and wicked points.

Yushau Abdulhameed Shuaib is the head of public relations, Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission, Abuja.



YOUR LETTERS

Obasanjo, why has thou forgotten your campaigners?

Your Excellency uncle Sege, I am still loyal and in support of your government. I am writing you this letter on behalf of my colleagues, the former staff of your former campaign office, inauguration office.

I seize this opportunity to appeal to Mr. president, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces to kindly come to our aid and to alleviate our suffering. Since the assumption of this present democracy two years now, we never felt the dividend of democracy. We are hungry and jobless. We are expecting you to call on us and address us, but up till now, our expectation has proved fruitless. We feel that we are neglected or there is a lack of communication.

We heard a rumour that some funds were release to compensate us, but we have

not received anything till date. We are even owed three months salaries. Among our former directors who are now ministers, only Professor Jerry Gana has been generous. I also seize this opportunity to complain to Uncle Sege that many of us were retrenched, although they say that it was wrongful termination carried out by the chief executive of NTDC, who, after we were employed and had done an induction course, came and retrenched about 200 of us, and replaced us with 370 others. Imagine this in what is supposed to be a democratic dispensation. She had any sympathy on us although most of us are family men with children.

We have been complaining to so many governing bodies but no action has been taken against the nefarious behaviour of this fellow. Only

some of us who have been able to bring letters from prominent people have been reinstated.

Those that did not participate in building this great party PDP, are the people that are enjoying the fruit of this nascent democracy. Even those who were your enemies when we asked people to 'vote for Sirajo' are now highly favoured

We are waiting for your sympathetic consideration and reply. Long live Mr. president GCON uncle Sege, Long live Federal Republic of Nigeria.

M. A. El-Bayero
271 Benghazi Street,
Off Addis Ababa,
Wuse Zone 4, Abuja.

Letter to Governor Yar'Adua

Sir, I wish to write you personally and register my appreciation and that of people of Dan-Musa on your determination to see that the much-awaited Yan Tumaki-Dan-Musa road project, currently being executed by your administration is completed within the stipulated time. To the people of Dan-Musa, and indeed all the neighbouring villages the road serves, the dividends of democracy starts and ends with the construction of that road. We are indeed very grateful. The people have taken note of your interest in the project since it was started early last year, although they had at one time doubted the competence and capability of the contractors to handle the job. We still believed that the

company ought not to have been given the project of such magnitude if records available at the Corporate Affairs Commission in respect of the company is anything to go by. It is however gratifying to note that you did not partake in the initial selection of the contractor as you were away on medical check-up.

Sir, the importance you attached to this project is manifested in your constant visit to the site. It is on record that you visited the site more than seven times since the project commenced early this year during which you had cause to threaten the contractors with revocation if they failed to live up to standard. This is despite the fact that Dan-Musa local government is under the control of a rival

party. This is indeed a high sense of political maturity.

We equally recognise your effort in transforming an otherwise backward state into a developed one through your implementation of people-oriented programmes. Your efforts in revitalising the educational sector in particular, have already started yielding dividends going by the performance of our candidates in the WAEC and other examinations. And lastly but more importantly, your honesty, sense of justice and fair play have helped to galvanise the people of the state.

May Allah continue to protect and guide you as you continue to steer the state to greatness, Ameen.
Shehu Abubakar Dan-Musa,
F.H.A. Estate,
Maitama, Abuja.

Politics in Kaduna State

The saying that "no condition is permanent" cannot be disputed either politically or religiously. Equally, "everything that has a beginning must have an end". It is a result of these sayings that big names in political scenes of Kaduna State are diminishing or are they being suppressed by the powers that be?

From the colonial times through the First and Second Republics there were names that by mere mention would make people shiver unnecessarily. They could be instrumental and factors to any decision making in government of Kaduna State and

would protect the image of their locality any time and anywhere.

The most important thing that made these sets of politicians different from the current bunch is that they were not selfish, sycophants or deceitful. They were highly respected by their people because they had regular contact with both traditional rulers and leaders of thought within and outside the state. Since the inception of this administration in Kaduna State, a new dimension and changes in political affairs have been experienced. People unknown politically and socially have been put in places to manage the

allow me space to express my dissatisfaction of human rights groups, espe-

Amnesty International, Arabs have rights too

cially Amnesty International. It is a one sided affair manned by the so-called Amnesty International, an organisation claiming to fight for human rights violation. Truly, it has been fighting for human rights violations ever since it was established, but the fight is one sided.

My reason for calling it one sided is that ever before and after the Black Tuesday that befell America, Arabs and Muslims' rights in general have been abused either by individuals or governments.

The Americans have been bombarding Iraq for the past ten years and are still bombing but nothing has been heard from the Amnesty International.

Israeli troops have been killing innocent Palestinians who are protecting their environment from occupation with stones and bottles, while the invaders are fighting with artilleries, from AK 47 to rocket launchers,

armoured tanks and helicopters all in the name of protecting the Jews, still Amnesty is nowhere to be found.

If Amnesty can go as far as calling for the release of the Ogoni nine here in Africa, Nigeria, support the sanction by UN on behalf of just nine people forgetting that Nigeria's population is more than 80 million, what stops it from at least crying out to stop the massacring of the Arabs in Palestine?

From September 11 to date more than 500 Arabs have been arrested, detained without proper investigation, it led to series of demonstrations by some NGOs America asking for the release of those detained without proper investigation, but Amnesty International did not or refused to act.

If Amnesty or other human rights groups can seek for the release of Ken Saro-Wiwa who was charged, found guilty and sentenced, in far away Nigeria, why not to the Arabs who are only suspected of having link with another suspect (bin Laden), arrested illegally, detained, not tried for a long time., in your country, your house and in your bedroom.

Lastly the current bombing of President Yasser Arafat's helicopters by Israeli troops backed by Americans what have you to say?

Haba Amnesty stop been sectional, they are human and their rights have to be protected too.
Adamu Idris (Prince)
Plot 108c Aminu Kano Crescent,
Wuse II, Abuja.
adamuidris@excite.com



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF POWER AND STEEL



NATIONAL IRON ORE MINING COMPANY LIMITED

Km.15, Okene/Lokoja Road,
P.M.B. 1001, Itakpe-Kogi State, Nigeria.

**INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND
ERECTION OF 600,000 LITRE FUEL STORAGE FACILITIES
AT ITAKPE MINING PROJECT**

As part of the on-going revitalization of the Nation's Steel Industry, the Federal Government has approved the construction and erection/installation of **Fuel Storage Facilities** at Itakpe Mining Project.

2. Tenders are hereby invited from interested reputable and competent construction Contractors for the construction and erection/installation of 600,000 litre capacity Fuel Storage facilities at Itakpe.

3. Interested Contractors registered with the **NATIONAL IRON ORE MINING COMPANY LIMITED (NIOMCO)** are required to:

a) Pay a non-refundable Tender fee of **NI0,000.00** to the Cashier, Finance Department, NIOMCO Headquarters at Itakpe, and obtain an official receipt

b) Collect **Tender Document** from the Tenders Secretariat, NIOMCO Itakpe.

c) Submit their bid(s) along with photocopies of the following documents:

- i) Evidence of registration with NIOMCO Limited;
- ii) Current Tax Clearance Certificate;
- iii) VAT Registration Certificate;
- iv) Certificate of Incorporation;
- v) Receipt of payment of Tender fee;
- vi) Company Profile and evidence of previous experiences in similar construction and erection works;
- vii) Bank reference from a reputable Bank.

4. All Tenders are to be sealed and clearly marked "**TENDER FOR FUEL STORAGE FACILITY**" on the envelope and addressed to:

Managing Director/Chief Executive,
National Iron Ore Mining Company Limited,
Km.15, Okene-Lokoja Road,
P.M.B. 1001, Itakpe,
Kogi State, Nigeria.

ATTENTION: Company Secretary/Legal Adviser,

5. All Tenders which must be submitted before 12.00 noon on 24th December, 2001 will be opened by **2.00pm** on the same date in the Boardroom of NIOMCO Headquarters, Itakpe.

NOTE: NIOMCO Limited is not bound to accept the lowest or any Tender.

MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL IRON ORE MINING COMPANY LIMITED,
ITAKPE.
28TH NOVEMBER, 2001.



PTF DEBT NEGOTIATION AND PAYMENT UNIT

PLOT 802, CONSTITUTION AVENUE
AIRPORT ROAD
P.M.B. 5007, WUSE, ABUJA

PRESS RELEASE

1. This is to inform the general public that Mr. President has magnanimously approved the release of some funds to the Debt Negotiation and Payment Unit of the Petroleum (Special) Trust Fund, (PTF) to pay some categories of the outstanding liabilities.
 2. Out of the amount received, what is due for payment to contractors of the Armed Forces and Police, PTF has released to the Ministerial Task Force at the Ministry of Defence to pay all outstanding debts. All contractors in this sector should establish contact with the Task Force.
 3. Payments, which will commence on Tuesday December 11th, 2001 are being systemized into categories for orderliness and transparency. Consequently, the following schedule will be used in the payment exercise.

a. N1 - N500,000	Tuesday 11th - Thursday 13th
b. N500,000 - N5M	Monday 17th - Wednesday 19th
c. N5M - N10M	Thursday 20th - Friday 21st
d. N10M - N20M	Saturday 22nd
- NOTE:**
The venue for all payments is the Auditorium of the Petroleum (Special) Trust Fund, PTF, PTF Office Complex, Abuja. Payment will commence at 10.00 am daily.
4. To avoid unnecessary delays, Contractors/Consultants or their Accredited Representatives only (NOT TOUTS) should bring along all requisite documents such as original contract documents, photo identity card, Letter of Authority, official receipt, etc.
 5. All PTF Consultants and Contractors, are hereby requested to return motor vehicles, office equipment and all other PTF items in their possession to the PTF premises before payment would be effected. Similarly, Manufacturers and Suppliers who have produced goods but NOT delivered them to the PTF should do so immediately.
 6. The PTF Management is using this medium to appeal to all affected beneficiaries to be orderly and patient during the exercise and to appear at the designated dates of their categories only. **NOTE ALSO** that any Contractor/Consultant that deals with touts does so at his or her own risk, as the PTF will not be liable for any unpleasant occurrence.

Signed

PTF Management
December 4th, 2001

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission

PRE-QUALIFICATION INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF HEADQUARTERS BUILDING. PHASE II (BUILDERS WORKS ONLY)

The Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) hereby invites tenders from reputable building contractors for pre-qualification to tender for construction of Headquarters building phase II.

Interested contractors may apply to tender for pre-qualification for the execution of the project.

CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

Prospective tenderers in addition to the application are expected to submit the following supporting documents to qualify for consideration: -

1. Evidence of Incorporation in Nigeria
2. Evidence of registration with Federal Works Registration Board of Federal Ministry of Works in at least category "D".
3. Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three years
4. VAT Certificate
5. Evidence of Financial Capability to execute the project/Bank reference
6. Company profile including the following details: -
 - (i) Nature of Business
 - (ii) Projects executed in the last five years, giving name of clients, contract sum, and completion period.
 - (iii) Names, Qualifications and Experience of your key Technical/Managerial staff.

(iv) Comprehensive list of Plant, Equipment and Transport facilities that can be made available for the project.

7. Evidence of Registration with RMAFC

8. Evidence of payment of the pre-qualification non-refundable tender-fee of N100, 000. 00 in certified bank draft made payable to the Commission.

Tender proposals are to be submitted within three (3) weeks from the dates of this publication in sealed envelopes and clearly mark "PRE-QUALIFICATION TENDER FOR THE COMPLETION OF HEADQUARTERS BUILDING PHASE II (BUILDERS WORK ONLY) and addressed to:-

The Secretary

Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission,

Plot 210, Tafawa Balewa Way,

Central District,

P.M.B. 054,

Garki-Abuja.

Tenderers are advised to indicate clearly the fastest and shortest possible means of reaching them, preferably Fax/Telephone/E-mail address.

The Commission is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender in whole or in part.

SIGNED

Secretary to the Commission

TRUST INTERNATIONAL AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Suicide bomber kills self, wounds five others

A suicide bomber blew himself up yesterday at a busy intersection near the northern Israeli port city of Haifa, killing himself and wounding five other people, police said.

The attack came at 7:30 a.m. on a work day in Israel, when the intersection was full of cars and bus stops were

packed with people. Ambulances raced to the scene and police closed off the area.

Rescue worker, Shimon Biton, told *Israel Radio* from the scene that the wounded were lightly to moderately injured. *Israel Radio* reported that the bomber set off his explosives at a bus stop meant for Israeli soldiers

returning to their bases after weekend leaves.

On Dec. 2, a suicide bomber blew himself up on a Haifa bus, killing himself and 15 other people, a day after two suicide bombers hit downtown Jerusalem, killing 10 people. On Saturday, another victim of the Jerusalem blast, a 17-year-old, died of his wounds.

...Arafat vows to face militants

With many Israelis calling for his ouster and warplanes bombing the symbols of his power, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat insisted Saturday that he will not shy away from a confrontation with the militant Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups to revive what hope remains for peace in the region.

In an interview with *The Associated Press* in his headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Arafat said the Palestinian police have already arrested 17 key militants out of a list of 33 presented to him by American officials, and said he will continue pursuing the rest despite the continuing Israeli airstrikes.

Asked whether he would

be prepared to face down resistance by the militants and their growing legions of supporters, Arafat smiled and said: "You are speaking with Yasser Arafat. I know how to do it. I know how to do it."

Earlier in the week, Palestinian police faced an angry mob outside the home of Hamas leader, Ahmed Yassin, after he had been placed under house arrest, and a Hamas supporter was killed in an exchange of fire.

Arafat was interviewed for an hour in his office in an imposing compound that once served as an Israeli military prison. It was just yards away from the scene of an Israeli missile strike earlier in the week that was widely interpreted as a

message that the Palestinian leader was no longer fully immune.

Dressed in olive fatigues and trademark keffiyeh headdress meticulously arranged to approximate the shape of historic Palestine, Arafat carried his own message largely aimed at America: attached to his lapels were tiny Palestinian and American flags, an olive branch and a pin depicting the Virgin Mary and baby Jesus.

Arafat said he was used to coming under Israeli attack, citing Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, in which Ariel Sharon - then defense minister and now Israel's prime minister - drove Arafat and his fighters to exile in faraway Tunisia.

New PM for Guinea-Bissau

President Kumba Yala of Guinea-Bissau has given the job of prime minister to his interior minister, Alamara Ntchia Nhasse, a day after sacking the previous incumbent, Faustino Imbali.

An agronomist educated in the former Soviet Union and Cuba, Mr. Nhasse served as agriculture minister in the previous administration and is a member of the political bureau of Mr. Yala's Party for Social Renewal (PRS).

PRS parliamentary group leader, Sola Nkirim, said the appointment was welcomed with "rejoicing".

"There's no doubt Faustino Imbali was a disappointment to us all," he told the *AFP* news agency.

Mr. Nhasse is the third prime minister to be appointed in the tiny West African state in less than two years.

Mr. Imbali's dismissal is the latest in a series of high-profile sackings - Mr. Yala dismissed Foreign Minister, Antoneta Rosa Gomes on November 21 and Interior Minister, Artur Sanha in August.

In a statement confirming Mr. Imbali's departure from the government, President Yala said he had failed in the

job. *BBC* correspondent said the 45-year-old sociologist, Mr. Imbali had spent a torrid nine months in office.

His initial appointment was strongly attacked by the opposition on the grounds that he lacked political experience.

But the most damning criticism came finally from

President Kumba Yala himself, who said he had shown a lack of transparency in his handling of affairs and had abused the confidence placed in him.

Opposition critics said the changes show a lack of coherence and leadership from Mr. Kumba Yala, who they believe is not fit to run Guinea-Bissau.

CAR to form peace-keeping force

By Jibrin Abubakar

Sudan and a number of other African countries are to form a peace-keeping force to enhance security and stability in the Central African Republic (CAR).

This was revealed in a statement signed by Salah Eldin Ali Elfadil, the Counsellor at the Sudanis Embassy in Abuja. According to him, it was part of the decisions taken at a one-day mini African summit on peace and stability in the Central African Republic (CAR) by member states of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) in Khartoum, Sudan.

The statement also stated that the communique issued at the end of the summit was borne out of critical examination of the

issues discussed.

Mr. Elfadil said the communique maintained that the Central African peace-keeping force will be for a limited duration under the supervision of President Omar Hassan El-Bashir of Sudan, the current chairman of CEN-SAD, the Libyan leader, Mammour El-Qaddafi, in charge of achieving security and stability in the CEN-SAD region, in collaboration with President Ange Felix Patasse of CAR.

"The United Nations shall be consulted to that end while the Secretary-General of the Organisation of African United (OAU), Mr. Amara Essy, who was present at the summit, would bring into the picture the OAU's central organ for management, prevention and resolution of conflicts," he said.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Revenue Mobilisation Allocation And Fiscal Commission

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF COMPLETION OF WORKS ON BLOCK OF FLATS AT GARKI II, ABUJA

1. The Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) hereby invites tenders from reputable building contractors to tender for construction of completion of works on Block of flats at Garki II Abuja. Interested competent and reputable contractors may collect tender documents for the execution of the project from the office of the Secretary, Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission, Central Area, Abuja on presentation of evidence of payment of non-refundable tender fee of thirty thousand naira only (N30,000.00)

2. CONDITIONS FOR TENDER

Prospective tenderers in addition to the application are expected to submit the following supporting documents to qualify for consideration:

- Evidence of incorporation in Nigeria
- Evidence of Registration with Federal Works Registration Board of Federal Ministry of Works in at least category 'D'.
- Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three years
- VAT Certificate
- Evidence of Financial Capability to execute the project/Bank reference.
- Company Profile including the following details:
 - Nature of Business
 - Projects executed in the last five years, giving name of clients, contract sum, and completion period.
 - Names, Qualifications and Experience of your key Technical/Managerial staff.
 - Comprehensive list of plant, Equipment and Transport facilities that can be made available for the project.
 - Evidence of Registration with RMAFC.
 - Evidence of payment of non-refundable tender fee of N30,000.00 in certified bank draft made payable to the Commission.

3. RETURN OF TENDER

Tender proposals are to be submitted within six (6) weeks from the date of this publication in sealed envelopes and clearly mark "TENDER FOR THE COMPLETION OF WORKS ON BLOCK OF FLATS AT GARKI II, ABUJA" and address to:

The Secretary,

Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission,
Plot 210 Tafawa Balewa Way,
Central District,
P.M.B 054,
Garki- Abuja.

Tenderers are advised to indicate clearly the fastest and shortest possible means of reaching them, preferably Fax/Telephone/E-Mail address.

The Commission is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender in whole or in part.

Signed:

Secretary to the Commission

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

World Report

US hunts for bin Laden in Kandahar

American forces are turning their attention to the search for Osama bin Laden, the man suspected of orchestrating the 11 September terror attacks on the United States, and members of his al-Qaeda network.

US marines are scouring the area around the city of Kandahar in southern Afghanistan, carrying photographs of key members of al-Qaeda.

And American aircraft have been bombarding a network of caves in the mountainous Tora Bora region in the east of the country, where it is believed Bin Laden could be holed up

with some of his loyal al-Qaeda fighters.

Earlier, Pakistan said it had stepped up surveillance of its 2,500km border with Afghanistan to try to prevent the escape of al-Qaeda members.

A Pakistani spokesman said hundreds of soldiers had been deployed at key points along the border, and armed helicopters were patrolling the area.

From the outset of its military campaign, the US has made it clear that its primary objective is to hunt down Bin Laden and bring him to justice.

Since the fall of Kandahar, US forces have been able to concentrate their efforts on that task.

"We're still looking for identified terrorists, specifically al-Qaeda. We are not necessarily looking for Taliban soldiers," Marine Captain Stewart Upton said.

All marines in the region above the rank of sergeant are now carrying pictures of the most important members of the al-Qaeda network.

And all possible escape routes are being patrolled by helicopters, military vehicles and foot patrols.

But despite these measures and the continued bombardment of the Tora Bora caves, it is still not known exactly where America's most wanted man is hiding.

On Friday, anti-Taliban forces said they had captured some of the caves and detained a number of people, including a group of women who could be some of Bin Laden's wives.

The new interim leader of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai, has promised to deliver Bin Laden and Mullah Omar, the Taliban's spiritual leader, to international justice.

Deputy loses family

Relatives of the Egyptian Islamic militant, Ayman al-Zawahri, have placed a death notice in the Cairo press announcing the killing of his wife and children.

Mr. Zawahri, regarded as the second man in Osama Bin Laden's al-Qaeda organisation, is a chief suspect in the 11 September attacks in the United States.

The death notice in the Egyptian newspaper says that the family of Ayman al-Zawahri announces to the Islamic nation the martyrdom of his wife and children.

They are thought to have been killed by US bombing of the eastern Afghanistan area of Tora Bora, where many al-Qaeda members are hiding.

The notice also cites an address where telegrams of condolences can be sent.

Burma urged to release opposition leader

Nobel peace prize winners and politicians from around the world have paid tribute to the Burmese opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, and called for her release from house arrest.

They appealed to the military regime in Burma to release 56-year-old Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been under house arrest for the last 13 years, despite winning elections in 1990.

The event marks 10 years since Aung San Suu Kyi was awarded the peace prize for her continued non-violent resistance to the junta.

"In physical stature she is petite and elegant, but in moral stature she is a giant," said the retired Anglican Archbishop from South

Africa, Desmond Tutu. "Big men are scared of her. Armed to the teeth and they still run scared," he said.

Irish police hunt for refugees' killers

An international police investigation has been launched after the bodies of eight refugees were found in a shipping container in Ireland.

Three of the dead were children - a boy aged about four and a boy and girl of 10 or 11 - one was a woman, and four were men, said police.

Five survivors aged from 17 to 35, including one woman, were found unconscious and are now in intensive care in Wexford, where their condition is described as "very serious"



Indian Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, (centre) arrived at Tokyo's Haneda Airport yesterday. Vajpayee, speaking to reporters, said that prospects for India's economy were bright, but he would welcome more private investment from Japan.

Afghan refugees mob British journalist

A British journalist is recovering after being beaten and pelted with stones by Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Veteran foreign correspondent Robert Fisk, 55, who writes for *The Independent* newspaper, was set upon after his car broke down as he drove near the border city of Quetta.

Mr. Fisk, who suffered facial, hand and head injuries, said: "It was a very frightening experience and I am in a lot of pain but I am glad to be alive."

"I'm going to bear the scars for the rest of my life - sadly I broke down in the wrong place at the wrong time."

The Middle East correspondent was attacked when his car overheated and broke down close to a village housing refugees from Afghanistan.

He got out of the vehicle and was attempting to push it to the side of the road when a group of 40 to 50 people gathered.

"At first they were reasonably friendly but then a little kid threw a stone at me. More stones followed and then I find myself being punched and beaten in the face."

"My glasses were smashed and my spare glasses were ripped away from me. I was covered in blood and couldn't see anything. I was obviously frightened."

Mr. Fisk said he fought back and began lashing out at the mob, whose numbers had now swelled to about 100.

He knocked a couple of his attackers to the ground but was then rescued by a Muslim religious leader, who forced the mob back and guided him to a police wagon.

The refugees - thought by police to be from Turkey - were discovered by the lorry driver when he delivered his cargo of office furniture at a business park.

Irish police are "actively investigating" the likelihood that the 13 had paid traffickers to organise their journey.

Irish Premier, Bertie Ahern pledged to track down the criminals responsible.

"Those involved in the cruel trade of trafficking in human beings have perpetrated yet another atrocity on the victims of their

greed," he said. Police said on Saturday evening they still had to establish exactly where the refugees boarded the container.

Translators were called in to speak to the survivors - one of whom is a 17-year-old boy - but they have not yet been able to give much information.

Superintendent John Farrelly said Irish police were working with their counterparts in Belgium, Germany and Italy to trace

ODD WORLD

Women wear trousers in protest

Hundreds of Turkish female civil servants wore trousers to work on Friday to protest against a dress code ordering women in the public sector to wear skirts.

Prime Minister, Bulent Ecevit was drawn into the simmering dispute. "I have until now been unable to divine why there would be objections to women in trousers," he told a news conference.

Government rules bar women wearing trousers to such workplaces as schoolrooms, government buildings and post offices, said a spokesman at the teachers' union, part of the Public Sector Workers Union organizing the protest.

"This protest aims at changing rules discriminating against one part of society," the union official said. "Some people look better in trousers. Some people's work requires them to wear trousers. It's a natural thing to want to wear trousers."

Turkey with an overwhelming muslim population, seeking to meet European Union standards, overhauled its civil code last month to eradicate many inequalities between men and women before the law.

Treasure hunt costs woman's life

A Japanese woman whose body was found by a hunter near the North Woods town of Detroit Lakes was apparently obsessed by the fictional buried treasure of the movie " Fargo," police say.

Before her body was discovered on Nov. 15, Takako Konishi, 28, had shown police a crude treasure map she had drawn based on the darkly comic film of 1996, in which a character takes ransom money and buries it in a snowdrift in the barren Minnesota landscape - a location he marks poorly with a short stick.

The character ends up dead, and his body is fed into a wood chipper.

Konishi had been brought to the police in Bismarck, North Dakota, after she was found rooting around in a dump. Seemingly rational, she made clear to non-Japanese-speaking officers that she had come from Tokyo to search for the cache of money from " Fargo," and she could not be talked out of her project, Police Lt. Nick Severt said Thursday.

Brandy shots to keep apes warm

It may be a warm and tipsy winter for dozens of monkeys and apes in a northern Indian zoo as the thermometer slides toward freezing over the next couple of months.

Authorities in the city of Lucknow have decided to serve the 35 or so primates at the local zoo a daily dose of brandy to ensure they stay warm and happy, the *Asian Age* newspaper reported on Friday.

The drink will be mixed with warm water and served in special glasses, the daily said, adding the size of the shot would depend on the age, size and weight of the primate.

"Since apes and monkeys have a digestive system that is almost similar to that of human beings, they will have no problems digesting the drink," Lucknow Zoo director B. Prabhakar was quoted as saying.

The *Asian Age* said alcohol has been served to monkeys in the zoo in the past, but not every day.

Other animals at the zoo, however, will not be so lucky. They will have to make do with a high protein, high calorie diet to stay warm through winter, when temperatures in northern India dip to near freezing during the peak months of December and January.

'Nameless' fish sparks protest

Fishermen in Gabon demonstrated in protest against the "fish with no name" wiping out other species in the central African country.

The villain, known outside Gabon as the African Bony-Tongue or *Heterotis niloticus*, was introduced accidentally to the 620-mile-long Ogooue river in the 1980s.

Scores of fishermen demonstrated Wednesday against the fish which they call the "No Name" in Gabon's second city of Port Gentil, residents there said.

Although prized for its flesh, Gabon's fishermen blame the fish for the disappearance of other species by gobbling up all available food.

A native of the Nile and West Africa's Senegal and Niger rivers, the heavily-scaled Bony-Tongue is popular with aquarium keepers when small, but it can grow up to one yard



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BUSINESS \$ DAY ¥

CBN disburses N99m for Global 2000 projects

The Central bank of Nigeria (CBN) has disbursed N99 million for philanthropic aids through the Debt Conversion Programme (DCP).

The DCP is one of the Federal Government's programmes towards reducing Nigeria's debt stock.

Through the programme, the Federal Government has

By Ahmed Shekarau

provided funds to *Global 2000* Foundation, an arm of the Carter Centre for Poverty Eradication and Disease Control, for the implementation of the foundation projects.

Country Representative of the *Global 2000* in Nigeria, Dr. Emmanuel Miri, said the DCP has provided N9,107,571.31 to the foundation in 1999, and N89,134,342.49 last year.

Dr. Miri said through these funds, the foundation has treated about 4.2 million river blindness patients across nine states of the federation this year.

The nine states are Plateau, Nasarawa, Edo, Enugu, Abia, Imo, Delta, Anambra and Ebony, which are regarded as having the highest cases of river blindness in the country.

The country representative who

...N380m for WACOT

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), has disbursed over N380 million to West African Cotton Company Limited, (WACOT) Funtua, under the debt conversion programme (DCP).

The amount which was given to the company between the 1999 and 2000 trading session, has enabled the company offset about N75 million out of the N200

By Osborne Adi Jnr

million loan it collected from NAL Merchant Bank as well as boost employment in Katsina State.

General Manager of the company, Mr. B. K. Murugendrappa, told newsmen on a tour of the firm's facilities at its site in Funtua, Katsina State at the weekend that the facility also assisted WACOT to export over \$5 million worth of cotton lint into the international market in the last two years.

Murugendrappa said they were also able to purchase eight utility vehicles, three delivery trucks, 5,296 metric tonnes of seed cotton, and pesticides.

Equally, part of the amount was used in the payment of staff salaries and wages, purchase of 320 KVA generator as well as plants and mechaneries needed for operations.

The company he said was able to capture upto 10 percent of the Nigerian market in 2000 even as the country's national cotton requirement of 80,000 tonnes was still far from being met.

Also speaking, the field manager of the company, Mr. S. K. G. Nair, said about 500 people were employed by the firm in Katsina State alone during good production seasons, adding however that illiteracy was hampering effective understanding between the people and the company.

He said these lack of proper understanding between them has made it herculean to organise the workers and other stakeholders in the area into cooperative groups in order to ease their operations.

WACOT whose share structure is through equity/debenture stock is owned by Dublin based Tropical General Investment Limited and is engaged in processing of cotton seed into cotton lint and related products, just as it has diversified into processing sesame which has so far fetched it over \$1 million in exports.

addressed newsmen who were in Jos to visit facilities under the DCP, further disclosed that the *Global 2000* has also succeeded in minimising the cases of guineaworm in the country from about 650,000 in 1987 to about 7,818 cases by the end of 2000.

Briefing newsmen earlier in Abuja, Secretary of the Debt Conversion Committee, DCC, Mrs. Fehintola Yomidale disclosed that Nigeria has by September this year, succeeded in cancelling \$1.43 billion out of the \$9.6 billion eligible for debt conversion from the country's total debt stock of \$29.53 billion.

Other advantages of the debt conversion programme, according to her, include capital inflows through foreign investments, inflow of grants, among others.

Activities at Banki market return to normal

Business activities at the deserted Banki Cattle Market in Bama council area of Borno State, have started returning to normal following the re-inforcement of security in the market.

Cattle dealers from Chad, Cameroon and Central African Republic (CAR) had boycotted the border market since October when a gang of armed robbers attacked their colleagues, killing seven people and snatching N13.5 million.

Security operatives, especially police and vigilante groups, were seen patrolling the market area in vehicles presented to them by Gov. Mala Kachalla when he visited Banki in the

wake of the robbery incident.

The cattle dealers, who had earlier threatened to relocate, had to be persuaded by the governor who assured them of adequate security arrangement.

Some of the dealers who spoke to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) commended the government for the improved security arrangement and called for its sustenance.

They, however, stressed that a repeat of the robbery incident would invariably force them to relocate to Kausuri, a town in neighbouring Cameroon.

NAN reports that Banki is one of the border towns designated by the federal government for the siting of international border markets.



Joseph Sanusi, CBN Governor.

SEC repositions for global challenges

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has said that it is poised to take its proper place in the comity of globalised capital markets in this millennium.

A statement signed by Alhaji Iliyasu Dhacko, head of corporate affairs of the commission, said the Director-General of SEC, Malam Suleyman A. Ndanusa made this assertion at a dinner organised in honour of participants at a two-day seminar on Securities Laws and the Capital Market, last week in Abuja.

Malam Ndanusa revealed that the commission is now more focused in terms of research and human resources, adding that in its bid to further enhance the commission's pursuit of its objectives of investors protection and capital market development, a comprehensive review of the capital market has been carried out to enable for accelerated development.

The director general reminded the participants of the statutory power of SEC to promote and maintain the integrity of the capital market and prohibit activities of market rigging, manipulation, false trading, insider-dealing and use of fraudulent means to include dealing in securities.

In his remarks, the chairman of the occasion,

Col. Yohanna Madaki, who is also the Board Chairman of SEC, appealed to the Federal Government to support SEC in its efforts to sensitise Nigerians to know more about the statutory duties of the commission through its public awareness campaign strategies.

He commended the management of the commission in its zeal and determination to educate Nigerians about the importance and benefits of the capital market inspite its meagre resources.

Col. Madaki observed that in the globalised economies, capital markets are specialised markets and by virtue of their status, they remain controversial, adding that controversies are part and process of a healthy market growth.



Suleyman A. Ndanusa, SEC Boss.



L-R: The Director General, Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), the Ag. Managing Director of NITEL, Mr. Ganiyu Adegboju and the Representative of Investors International (London) Limited (IILL), at the signing ceremony of transaction documents for the sale of 51 percent Federal Government interest in NITEL to Investors International at the State House, Abuja, recently. Pix: Kennedy Eghonodje.

UBA presents cheques to premium save beneficiaries

The United Bank for Africa (UBA) Plc will present cheques to the third set of the UBA Premium Save Account beneficiaries on Thursday, December 13th, 2001, at the Royal Banquet Hall, Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, at 11a.m.

A statement signed by Dr. Kabir Ahmed, Principal Manager Corporate Affairs of the bank said, N15,000,000.00, (N15 million) will be presented to 30 UBA Premium Save Account customers who had been randomly selected among the customers who have maintained the specified minimum amount in their respective accounts for a period of three months.

The statement said as was the case with the earlier selection processes, the bank's external auditors - Akintola Williams, Deloitte & Touche and KPMG (Chartered Accountants) with be present alongside the

internal selection committee of the bank.

On July 30, 2001 at the Muson Centre, Lagos and Ladi Kwali Conference Centre, Abuja Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Abuja, on October 4, 2001, the first and second sets of award beneficiaries collected their cheques respectively.

"As in earlier award presentations, a cash award of N1,000,000.00 each shall be given to ten beneficiaries who had a minimum daily balance of N250,000.00 for three months, while 20 customers who had a minimum daily balance of N50,000.00 for the same period shall be given a sum of N250,000.00 each," Dr. Ahmed disclosed.

The UBA Premium Save Account product was introduced in March 2001. It is designed to assist customers who maintain a daily balance of N50,000.00 for three months at one level and N250,000.00 at another

for the same period.

The product which was introduced to the public during the 12th UBA Save for School Bursary Award presentation in Lagos has recorded a tremendous patronage. The product is aimed at providing financial assistance to the bank's customers to meet their personal and business needs and at the same time reward them for being loyal to the bank.



Hakeem Bello-Osagie, UBA Boss.

NIGERIAN AIRSPACE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

MURTALA MUHAMMED AIRPORT

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NOTICE ON PAYMENT OF NAVIGATIONAL CHARGES IN NIGERIA

It has been observed that operators are defaulting in the payment of Air navigational charges. Even in instances where such payments are made, they are not regular and are often delayed. We have made our concern known to IATA.

The management has therefore appraised the situation and directed the following airlines to effect payment of past and current bills on or before 13th December 2001 or the agency will withdraw her services to any defaulting operator by denying ATC clearance.

1. BRITISH AIRWAYS
2. SWISSAIR
3. KLM AIRLINE
4. AIR FRANCE
5. LUFTHANSA AIRLINE
6. KENYA AIRWAYS
7. AIR AFRIQUE
8. ETHIOPIAN AIRLINE
9. AIR GUINEA
10. ALITALIA AIRLINE
11. EGYPT AIR
12. AIR GARBON
13. AIR CONGO
14. SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS
15. NIGERIAN AIRWAYS
16. AEROFLOT
17. BELLVIEW AIRLINE
18. SUDAN AIRWAYS
19. CAMEROUN AIRLINE
20. BALKAN AIRLINE
21. MIDDLE EAST AIRLINE
22. SABENA AIRLINE

Any operator who fails to comply with this directive will be sanctioned accordingly.

SIGNED

NAMA Management.

BUSINESS DAY

Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE) Price List as at Friday (07/12/2001)

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE
TUP	4.81	4.80	0.01	9	7,720	37,128.00
ABATEX	1.00	1.00	0.00	1	300	300.00
AFPRINT	0.95	0.95	0.00	7	30,244	28,731.80
AFRIBANK	8.95	8.72	0.23	66	227,129	1,420.00
AFRPAINTS	0.72	0.71	0.01	1	2,000	936,754.00
AGIP	36.50	36.00	0.50	23	25,889	282,286.50
AIICO	2.93	3.07	0.14	11	91,950	622,022.80
ALEX	2.80	2.80	0.00	2	222,151	622,022.80
ALUMACO	0.84	0.84	0.00	1	116	97.44
AMICABLE	0.59	0.57	0.02	1	5,000	2,850.00
AP	19.34	19.34	0.00	8	5,622	108,729.48
ASHAKACEM	24.71	23.48	1.23	33	86,167	2,091,703.00
AVONCROWN	0.87	0.87	0.00	2	1,312	1,141.44
BCC	4.79	4.79	0.00	1	500	2,395.00
BERGER	2.79	2.85	0.06	22	169,627	475,307.07
BLACKWOOD	0.78	0.78	0.00	1	132	102.96
CADBURY	30.00	28.81	1.19	54	96,610	2,785,259.64
CCNN	3.07	3.07	0.00	3	353,000	1,083,710.00
CFAO	3.29	3.45	0.16	11	28,111	95,950.39
CHALLARAM	1.64	1.72	0.08	3	3,17	5,454.12
CORNERST	1.42	1.37	0.05	6	15,000	2,050.00
CUTIX	2.50	2.62	0.12	1	5,000	13,100.00
DELTGLAS	5.00	5.00	0.00	1	15,000	75,000.00
DNMEYER	10.49	10.00	0.49	6	2,800	28,606.40
DUNLOP	3.50	3.50	0.00	19	90,555	316,620.99
EKOBANK	2.15	2.15	0.00	39	1,120,724	2,314,879.70
ETERNAOIL	1.34	1.34	0.00	13	43,500	57,810.00
EVANSMED	1.59	1.60	0.01	14	461,000	743,005.68
FIRSTALUM	1.60	1.53	0.07	1	1,000	1,530.00
FIRSTBANK	24.17	24.65	0.48	223	1,193,594	29,111,078.83
FLOURMIL	16.00	16.00	0.00	51	317,525	5,059,374.70
FSB	8.49	8.35	0.14	21	20,178	167,489.30
GCAPPA	4.50	4.50	0.00	3	5,100	22,950.00
GROMMAC	0.46	0.47	0.01	1	5,000	2,350.00
GUARANTY	6.59	6.65	0.06	29	7,980,568	52,671,996.70
GUINNESS	34.39	34.10	0.29	78	140,478	4,824,920.16
HALLBANK	3.81	3.92	0.11	2	20,000	77,850.00
IGL	5.23	5.20	0.03	5	8,843	46,120.46
IMB	1.02	1.07	0.05	42	1,217,685	1,266,585.70
INLANDBANK	1.39	1.33	0.06	3	40,000	53,200.00
INTREW	1.29	1.29	0.00	3	30,000	38,700.00
INTRAMOTOR	0.57	0.56	0.01	1	697	390.32
JBERGER	47.50	45.15	2.35	10	8,400	379,510.00
JOHNHOLT	2.20	2.30	0.10	21	135,966	296,539.29
LASACO	1.53	1.53	0.00	8	16,200	24,716.00
LENNARDS	0.29	0.29	0.00	4	6,675	1,935.75
LEVROS	27.20	27.20	0.00	77	1,078,225	28,635,427.90
LIONBANK	1.35	1.35	0.00	5	21,341	28,810.35
LIVESTOCK	3.45	3.45	0.00	1	120	414.00
LONGMAN	5.32	5.32	0.00	2	1,400	7,448.00
MANNYBANK	1.26	1.26	0.00	4	25,510	31,573.80
MOBIL	63	63.50	0.49	5	550	34,778.00
NAL	3.67	3.69	0.02	33	287,486	1,058,385.12
NB	35.20	35.00	0.20	52	279,231	9,777,933.57
NBC	26.15	26.70	0.55	27	19,973	523,243.80
NEM	0.50	0.50	0.00	1	1,465	732.50
NESTLE	63.40	64.89	1.49	22	1,018,410	64,672,078.76
NIG-GERMAN	3.00	3.15	0.15	2	13,700	43,155.00
NIGERINS	4.33	4.33	0.00	2	2,145,308	9,289,183.64
NIWICABLE	2.17	2.17	0.00	2	36,000	78,120.00
NOLCHEM	28.48	27.10	1.38	33	59,826	1,667,416.05
OKOMUOIL	9.45	9.45	0.00	3	1,044	9,865.80
OWENABANK	2.30	2.19	0.11	6	35,300	77,440.00
PFIZER	5.44	5.44	0.00	1	500	2,720.00
PRESTIGE	2.11	2.10	0.10	3	56,500	118,565.00
PZ	10.95	10.51	0.44	33	88,369	942,382.04
ROYALEX	5.10	5.00	0.10	2	295,250	1,476,275.00
RTBRISCOE	3.75	3.75	0.00	6	19,450	73,131.30
SAVANNA	1.05	1.10	0.05	12	34,842	37,437.20
SCOA	2.50	2.38	0.12	3	7,800	18,564.00
SKBEECHAM	1.97	1.97	0.00	5	16,000	31,520.00
STUDPRESS	1.50	1.45	0.05	2	1,074,880	1,558,576.00
TEXACO	62.80	62.00	0.80	8	10,863	675,626.00
TIB	2.18	2.18	0.00	2	26,666	58,131.88
TOTAL	64.49	65.00	0.51	21	23,531	1,529,804.64
TRIPLEG	1.10	1.10	0.00	3	16,801	18,481.10
UAC-PROP	4.49	4.60	0.11	27	511,680	2,331,318.20
UACN	3.75	3.93	0.18	45	157,437	606,323.37
UBA	10.58	10.06	0.52	126	3,578,179	36,974,570.86
UBN	24.91	24.91	0.00	43	101,389	2,525,599.99
UNIC	1.75	1.82	0.07	17	87,672	149,001.52
UNIDONDCON	20.45	19.43	1.02	4	1,382	26,852.26
UNIPETROL	55.50	54.00	1.50	15	8,104	439,658.16
UNTL	4.00	4.00	0.00	29	130,100	520,400.00
UTB	3.15	3.15	0.00	6	17,200	53,955.00
UTC	0.99	0.99	0.00	7	21,760	21,542.40
VANLEER	2.74	2.73	0.01	4	26,000	67,980.00
VITAFOAM	4.40	4.49	0.09	28	87,662	385,333.62
VONO	1.87	1.87	0.00	3	8,554	15,995.98
WAPCO	21.10	20.10	1.00	22	42,527	866,123.88
WAPIC	2.01	2.01	0.00	3	9,500	19,050.00
WEMABANK	3.65	3.50	0.15	43	240,978	878,676.11
TOTAL				1,665	25,984,704	276,552,457.73

Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE) Gainers/Losers as at Friday (07/12/2001)

Gainers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
NESTLE	63.40	64.89	1.49
NBC	26.15	26.70	0.55
TOTAL	64.49	65.00	0.51
MOBIL	63.01	63.50	0.49
FIRSTBANK	24.17	24.65	0.48
UACN	3.75	3.93	0.18
CFAO	3.29	3.45	0.16
NIG-GERMAN	3.00	3.15	0.15
AIICO	2.93	3.07	0.14
CUTIX	2.50	2.62	0.12
HALLBANK	3.81	9.92	0.11
UAC-PROP	4.49	4.60	0.11
JOHNHOLT	2.20	2.30	0.10
VITAFOAM	4.40	4.49	0.09
CHELLARAM	1.64	1.72	0.08
UNIC	1.75	1.82	0.07
BERGER	2.79	2.85	0.06
GUARANTY	6.59	6.65	0.06
IMB	1.02	1.07	0.05
SAVANNA	1.05	1.10	0.05
NAL	3.67	3.69	0.02
EWVANSMED	1.59	1.60	0.01
GROMMAC	0.46	0.47	0.01

Losers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
JBERGER	47.50	45.15	2.35
UNIPETROL	55.50	54.00	1.50
NOLCHEM	28.48	27.10	1.38
ASHAKACEM	24.71	23.48	1.23
CADBURY	30.00	28.81	1.19
WAPCO	21.10	20.10	1.00
TEXACO	62.80	62.00	0.80
UBA	10.58	10.06	0.52
AGIP	36.50	36.00	0.50
DNMEYER	10.49	10.00	0.49
PZ	10.95	10.51	0.44
GUINNESS	34.39	34.10	0.29
AFRIBANK	8.95	8.72	0.23
WEMABANK	3.65	3.50	0.15
FSB	8.49	8.35	0.14
SCOA	2.50	2.38	0.12
OWNABANK	2.30	2.19	0.11
PRESTIGE	2.11	2.01	0.10
ROYALEX	5.10	5.00	0.10
FIRSTALUM	1.60	1.53	0.07
INLANDBANK	1.39	1.33	0.06
CORNERST	1.42	1.37	0.05
STUDPRES	1.50	1.45	0.05
AMICABLE	0.59	0.57	0.02
APPRAINTS	0.72	0.71	0.01

Summary of Transactions			
	OPENING	CLOSING	% AGE CHANGE
MKT. CAP.	647,857,456,407.14	643,797,181,607.79	-0.63
INDEX	10,953.10	10,884.45	-0.63
DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE	No. OF COMPANIES
1,665	25,984,704	276,552,457.73	92

Source: NSE, Abuja Area Office

Nestle Plc. led gainers at NSE on Friday

Trading reports collected from Abuja Area Office of the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) on Friday, indicated that a total of 25.98 million shares valued at N276.55 million in 1,665 deals were traded on the floors of the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

There were no transactions in the Industrial Loans/Preference Stocks sector and the Federal Government Development stocks sector.

Price Movement:

The Nigerian Stock Exchange All-Share Index closed that day at 10,884.45 a decrease of 0.63 percent. The index opened at 10,953.10, while the market capitalisation closed at N643.80 billion, a decrease of 0.63 percent, it opened at N647.86 billion.

The bears led on the floor with a total of 25 companies losing and 18 companies gaining in their share prices.

Gains were recorded in the Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Petroleum Marketing, Banking, Chemical and Paint, Insurance, Real Estate, Industrial/Domestic Products, Commercial/Services, Healthcare and the Construction sub sectors.

Nestle Plc led the price gainers, as it appreciated by 149 kobo to close the day at N64.89 per share, followed by NBC Plc, which appreciated by 55 kobo to close at N26.70 per share.

Other price gainers include Total 51 kobo; Mobil (49 kobo); Firstbank (48 kobo); UACN (18 kobo); CFAO (16 kobo); Nig-German (15 kobo); AIICO (14 kobo); Cutix (12 kobo); Hallbank and UAC-Prop (11 kobo apiece); Johnholt (10 kobo); Vitafoam (9 kobo) and Chellarm (8 kobo).

Losses were recorded in the Construction, Petroleum Marketing, Building Materials, Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Banking, Chemical & Paints, Conglomerates, Breweries, Insurance, Industrial/Domestic Products and the Printing and Publishing sub sectors.

JBerger Plc. led the price losers, dropping by 235 kobo to close at N45.15 per share, followed by Unipetrol Plc, which lost 150 kobo, to close at N54.00 per share.

Other price losers include Nolchem (138 kobo); Ashakacem (123 kobo); Cadbury (119 kobo); WAPCO (100 kobo); Texaco (80 kobo); UBA (52 kobo); Agip (50 kobo); DN Meyer (49 kobo); PZ (29 kobo) and Guinness (11 kobo).



MTN RECHARGE CARDS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE

DBL Technologies Limited (DIAMOND BANK)

LAGOS
Branch 1 VI
 Plot 730, Adeola Hopewell, Victoria Island Tel:2613369, 2626094-8
Branch 2 VI
 Adeola Odeku street, Victoria Island Tel:2601902-5
Apapa Branch
 Sagittarius Block Eleganza Plaza, Wharf road, Apapa Tel:5804605, 5804606, 5804608, 5804611
Isolo Branch
 37, Osolo way, Isolo Tel: 4525950, 4523555, 4525053
Opebi Branch
 10, Opebi road, Old Garage, Ikeja Tel: 4938022,4938860
Alaba
 Alaba International Market ,Lagos Tel:01-2881427/2630180
Balogun
 36 Balogun Street Lagos Tel:01-2643029/2643027/01-2643029

PORT HARCOURT
Port Harcourt
 Plot 268, Trans Amadi, Industrial Road, Trans Amadi Tel:084-231369, 234907,237923

ABUJA
Abuja branch
 N417, UAC Building, Plot 273, Central Bus, Area, Garki Tel: 09-5236971, 5236975, 236975

KADUNA
Kaduna Branch
 1, Kachia Road Kaduna South Kaduna Tel: 062-236937/062-236935

PREST SQUARE LIMITED (LIBERTY BANK)
LAGOS
Head Office
 No 31, Bishop Oluwole street, Victoria Island Tel: 01-4617423
Idumota Branch
 17 Ereko street, Idumota Tel:01-2619269
Apapa Branch
 35 Warehouse road, Apapa Tel:090-412009
Matori
 103, Ladipo Street, Matori Tel:090-412518

Ikeja
 51 A Adeniyi Jones Avenue ,Ikeja ,Lagos Tel:090-407742/4933281
Alaba
 28 Dobill Avenue , Alaba International Market, Alaba Tel:090-402585

ABUJA
Abuja Branch
 Plot 452, Adetokunbo Ademola crescent, Wuse II, Opposite Amigo Supermarket, Abuja Tel: 09-5233596,5233805

GRA Phase II
 Plot 216B Woji Road, GRA Phase II, Port Harcourt Tel: 084-237094

FMT REAL INVESTMENTS LIMITED (MAGNUM BANK)
LAGOS
Marina
 67 Marina, LagosTel:01-2640140, 264244501-2642445
Victoria Island
 Plot 1664 Oyin Jolayemi street, Victoria Island Tel:01-2625538,2625539
Apapa
 13-15 Wharf road, Apapa Tel: 01-54555813
Idumota
 105, Enu-Owa street, Idumota Tel:01-2663076,2666979
Ikeja
 9 Aromire Avenue Ikeja Tel:01-4968500-3
Broad Street
 50-52 Broad Street Lagos Tel:01-2645728-30

ABUJA
Abuja
 Plot 450 Kontagora Close off Tafawa Balewa Way,Area 3, Garki Tel:09-2347400-4

PORT HARCOURT
Port Harcourt
 44 Trans-Amadi Road , Tel: 083-230407

MIBL NOMINEES LTD (MARINA BANK)
LAGOS
Head Office
 10 Amodu Ojikutu Street Victoria Island Tel:2621051-5, 2625616-7
Ikeja Branch
 53 Adeniyi Jones Ave ,Ikeja Tel:77,485,554,709,707

PORTHARCOURT
Port Harcourt
 Admiralty House, Plot 202, Olu-Obasanjo Road Tel: 084-236077-8

ABUJA
Abuja Branch
 No 240 Mohammed Buhari Way, Central Business District Tel:09-5232707,09-5231062

GSM EXPRESS (STANDARD TRUST BANK)
LAGOS
The Standard Place
 Plot 1662 Oyin Jolayemi Street, Victoria Island Tel: 01-2625080-9, 2622399
Victoria Island II
 212 Akin Adesola Street, Victoria Island Tel: 01-2671690-4,8042894
Balogun
 17, Balogun Street, Lagos Tel:01-2663093,2640399, 01-2668550

Apapa I
 22, Warehouse road, Apapa Lagos Tel:01-5454061-3
Ikeja
 73, Allen Avenue, Ikeja. Lagos Tel:01-4971844-7
Isolo
 10, Osoloway, Ajao Estate. Isolo, Lagos Tel:01-40220390, 4520389-94, 01-452039
Festac
 2nd Avenue, 21/31 Road Junction by 312 road. Festac Tel:01-5892933-34, 5892929
Alaba
 8, Ojo Igbede road, Alaba International Market, Alaba
Trade Fair
 Trade Fair Complex Tel:01-8042463
Idumota
 169 Nnamdi Azikiwe st. Idumota Lagos Tel:01-2643208
Oke-Arin
 20 Ijaiye Street Oke Arin Lagos Tel:01-4703359

ABUJA
Garki
 Wuse 1, Yola Street, Area 8 Garki. Abuja Tel: 09-2349211
NASS
 Plot 823, Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent, National Assembly Complex, Garki Tel:09-5234889,5234891, 09-5235789-90, 09-2341018,2341061

PORTHARCOURT
South Central Region
 Plot 202, Olu-Obasanjo way, Port Harcourt Tel:084-239276, 236011/084-330194
Trans Amadi
 25, Trans Amadi Layout, Port Harcourt Tel:084-235630

KADUNA
Kaduna 1
 A1 Ahmadu Bello Way Kaduna Tel:062-242887-9
Kaduna 2
 PPMC Depot Kaduna Refining and Petrochemical Tel:062-233760-1

INTERCONTINENTAL BANK LIMITED
LAGOS
Victoria Island I
 Intercontinental Plaza , Danmole Street , Victoria Island , Lagos Tel:2622940-59
Adeola Hopewell
 Plot 1607 Adeola, Hopewell Street , Victoria Island Tel:2611177
Marina
 48 Marina Road . Opposite Unipetrol,Marina ,Lagos
Apapa
 39,Creek Road, Apapa,LagosTel:5455334-7
Idumota
 66, Iga-Iduganran Street , Idumota ,Lagos Tel:4707399
Ikeja
 183, Obafemi Awolowo Way , Opp.Lagos State Secretariat, Alausa , Ikeja ,Lagos Tel:4923856-59

Ikoyi
 Marble House ,1, Kingsway Road , Ikoyi , Lagos Tel: 2696396-7
Alaba
 4, Agudosi Street , Off Ojo Road , Alaba International Market , Lagos Tel: 2883081
Surulere
 71, Adeniran Ogunsanya Street , Surulere , Lagos
Toyin Street
 54 , Toyin Street , Ikeja , Lagos Tel: 4939118-20

ABUJA
Abuja
 Plot 207 , Cadastral Zone AO , Central Business District , Abuja Tel: 2346563-7

PORT HARCOURT
Port Harcourt
 135 , Olu Obasanjo Way , G.R.A. Phase1 , Diobu , Port Harcourt Tel: 084-237672

WEMA BANK PLC
LAGOS
Apapa
 32,Warehouse Road Lagos Tel:5872615/5873001
Broad Street
 23,Broad Street , Mamman, Kontagora House,Lagos
Ebute Metta
 52/54 Murtala Muhammed Way , Ebute-Metta Tel: 7745996/5457764

Ikeja
 Obafemi Awolowo House , Awolowo Way Ikeja Tel:4963542/4932339
Maryland
 2,Mobolaji Bank -Anthony Way,Maryland,Ikeja Tel:49381104933882
Orile Iganmu
 Lagos/Badagry Express(by opere street)Orile Iganmu,Lagos Tel:7744559/2881008

Tinubu
 Wema House,27 Nnamdi Azikwe Street ,PO Box 5669 ,Lagos Tel:2662439/2660923
Alaba
 3A ,Ojo-Igbede Road,Alaba International Market Tel:2883211/5884035

Iponri
 Iponri Shopping Centre,Iponri , P.M.B.3463,Surulere Tel: 5843853
Lawanson
 89,Itire Road, Lawanson,Surulere,Lagos Tel: 5456180/5456181
Victoria Island
 4A, Idowu Taylor Street,Victoria Island Tel:2620717 / 7747940
Abule Egba
 15, Lagos/Abeokuta Express Road, Abule Egba Tel: 4922896, 2881645
Lapal
 241,Igbose Road , Lagos Tel: 2631462/2634649

Mushin
 236,Agege Tel:4522642
Ogba
 Plot 45,Omu Road , Ogb Tel:2644982
Oke - Arin
 107,Alakoro Tel:2644982
Okokomaiko
 24,Badagry Lagos Tel:774939118-20
Egbeda
 117 Idimu EgbedaTel:4939118-20
Jibowu
 Refuge Insu Ikorodu Rd LagosTel:54236972
Unilag
 University of LagosTel:54236972
Marina
 Wema Tower Tel:2668105
Victoria Island
 4A, Idowu Tel:2620717

ABUJA
Abuja
 264 Central 5236902/5236903
Wuse
 Plot 39 Wuse Modern Mall / 5235716

PORT HARCOURT
Port Harcourt
 Plot 11 , Trans Amadi Port- Harcourt Tel:231069

EQUITY BANK
LAGOS
Apapa
 11,Buma Road Tel:545719
Victoria Island
 44,Adeola Tel:2611015/2611016
Ikeja
 53, Allen Avenue Tel:497025

ABUJA
Abuja 1
 Tofa House 770, Central Business District National Mall Lagos Tel:5237062/5237063
PORT HARCOURT
Port Harcourt
 41,Trans-Amadi Harcourt Tel: 084-2630407

NETWORK OF CHOICE

All standard terms and conditions of MTN apply. Offers valid while stocks last. Calls charged in unit increments of 60 seconds. For more information call Customer Service helpline. From MTN cellphone 180 from any other phone 0803 10 180 (call charged at normal cellular rate). Offer strictly limited to 50,000 N12 per minute low rate for MTN Business Time and MTN Booster card users. Off peak is between 7pm and 12am and between 4am and 7am. Low rates are between 12am and 4am.

CHARGE CARDS

USE SELECTED BANKING OUTLETS

Victor Road, Mushin
/7746167

Industrial Layout, Isheri
Tel: 4923433/7746570

Street, Oke-Arin, Lagos
/4704309

Expressway Okokomaiko
46033

Road
707584/2881358

ance House, No 33
, Tel: 4704191/2881646

f Lagos, Akoka Yaba,
57763/5457765

rs, 54 Marina Lagos
/2668043

nd
Taylor Street, Victoria Island
/7747940

Business Area Abuja Tel: 09-
234707

se 1, Zone 6A Wuse
arket, Abuja Tel: 09-5239264

COURT
urt
ans Amadi Industrial Layout
urt Tel: 084-231068 /

BANK OF NIGERIA LIMITED
oad, Apapa, Lagos
B-5
and
Odeku Street, VI, Lagos Tel:
523870

venue, Ikeja, Lagos
2-4

Tofa House, Plot
Business Area, Near
osque, Abuja Tel: 09-
236855

COURT
urt
madi, Industrial Layout, Port
3098/236099

ONITSHA
Onitsha
14, Newmarket Road, Onitsha
Tel: 046-412939; 411392042-253021

ENUGU
Enugu
27, Egui Raod, Enugu
Tel: 042-259230; 259739042-259915

REGENT BANK LIMITED
LAGOS
Victoria Island
Churchgate Tower, Plot PC 30 Afribank
Street, Victoria Island, Lagos
Oke-Arin
109d Alakoro Street Marina, Lagos Tel:
7731296
Idumota
5, Docemo Street, Lagos
Iddo
1, Taylor Road, G.Cappa Compound, Iddo,
Lagos Tel: 7731478

ABUJA
Main Branch
No 8 (plot 473) Langtang Close,
Area 3 Garki, Abuja
Tel: 09-2340667/2342012

CITIZENS INTERNATIONAL BANK
LAGOS
Head Office
Plot 130, Ahmadu Bello Way, Victoria Island
Corporate Head Office
Plot 140, Ahmadu Bello Way, Victoria Island
Broad Street Branch
NIDB House 63/71 Broad Street Lagos
Tel: 01-2662699/2665899, 01-2668450, DL 01-
2668473

Alaba
6 Agudosu st. Alaba Int. Market Lagos
Tel: 01-5892422/4702535/4703795

Ikoyi
93, Awolowo Road, Ikoyi, Lagos
Tel: 01-2694523/2673581, 01-2692114

All Seasons Plaza Ikeja
Lateef Jakande Road Agidingbi, Ikeja
Tel: 01-4702126/4710681, 01-4702126

Surulere
24, Ogunlana Drive Surulere, Lagos
Tel: 01-5456988/5852276-8

Matori
Plot 151 Ladipo St. Mushin Lagos
Tel: 01-4706888/4702532, 01-4521622

Trade Fair
Hall 2 ASPANDA Plaza Int. Trade Fair Complex,
Badagry Expressway Lagos
Tel: 01-3208279/4702533/3208280, 01-3208280

Apapa
52, Warehouse Road Apapa, Lagos
Tel: 01-5453405/5451063-4, 01-5453405

Idumota
138, Nnamdi Azikiwe St, Idumota Lagos
Tel: 01-2660536/2669454, 01-2660536

Trinity Branch Apapa
11 Industrial Rd./Sadiku St. Olodi Apapa Lagos
Tel: 01-4712037

ABUJA
Abuja 1
Plot 2105 Herbert Macaulay Way,
Zone 6, Wuse, Abuja
Tel: 09-5236894/5236891-6, 09-5236892
Abuja 2
Central Area Branch, Opposite Tofa House,
Central Business District
Tel: 09-5237444-689, 09-5238823, DL
095237444

PORTHARCOURT
Portharcourt Branch
5A Olu Obasanjo st, P/H Rivers state
Tel: 084-232851/571280, 084-239080, 084-
239996/330207

KADUNA
Kaduna Branch
88 Ahmadu Bello Way, Near Leventis
Roundabout, Kaduna
Tel: 062-247777/242477/80, DL-062/247777

METROPOLITAN BANK LIMITED
LAGOS
Lagos Branch
24, Idowu Taylor Street
P.M.B. 73266, Victoria Island
Tel: 01-3200500-4; 4617585; 4617690;
2612036
Apapa Branch
Commercial Building Premises Tincan Island Port
Behind National Filling Station Along Apapa
Mile-2 Expressway Tel: 01-5871442
Ikeja Branch
Oluwalogbon House
Plot A, Obafemi Awolowo Way, Ikeja
Tel: 01-4968195; 4966691
Idumota Branch
39, John Street, Off Kosoko Street
Tel: 01-2642059; 2640581; 4704681
Aspamda Office
Zone A, Block 12, Divine Favour Plaza
Aspamda Complex Lagos Int'l Trade Fair
Complex

ABUJA
Abuja Branch
Owena House
Plot 76, 4th Avenue
Central Business District, P.M.B. 472
Garki, Abuja
Tel: 09-2344325; 234452; 2347790-1

PORT HARCOURT
Port Harcourt
20, Trans Amadi Road
Port Harcourt
Tel: 084-572779

NNEWI
Nnewi Branch
22, Onitsha Road, Nnewi
Anambra State
Tel: 046-460647; 463423; 461292; 461299;
463852

CAPITAL BANK INTERNATIONAL
LAGOS

Lagos Branch
146b, Ligali Ayorinde Street
Victoria Island
Tel: 01-2625700

Apapa Branch
33, Creek Road, Apapa
Tel: 01-5877454, 5873355

Akoka Branch
100, St. Finbarr's College Road
Akoka Tel: 01-822517

Apogbon Branch
16 Apogbon Street
Lagos Tel: 01-2640444

Ipaja Branch
171, Abeokuta Expressway,
Iyana-Ipaja Tel: 01-4922035-6

Ikeja Branch
20 Simbiat Abiola Road
Off Airport Road
Tel: 01-4962113, 4932635, 4968408

Palm Avenue Branch
4, Palm Avenue
Mushin
Tel: 01-4521330, 4524292-3

Ojo Branch
78A, Old Ojo Road, Agboju-Amuwo
Tel: 01-4705513

ABUJA
Abuja Branch
Total House
Plot 247, Herbert Macaulay Central Business
District
Tel: 09-2346792-3, 2347631

PORT HARCOURT
Port Harcourt Branch
12, Azikiwe Road, P.M.B. 5108
Tel: 084-236869-70, 331861

KADUNA
Kaduna Branch
Plot 1, Kachia Road
Kaduna



YOUR BEST CONNECTION

NEWS

Muslim denounces Islam in Sharia Court

A 23-year-old man, Mohammed Ali, in a desperate attempt of escape the amputation of his hand, denounced Islam for Christianity during his trial at a Sokoto Sharia Court for alleged stealing.

"I am not a Muslim; I am a Christian who only believes in the teaching and practices of the Holy Bible. It will, therefore, not be proper for me to be tried under the provisions of the Islamic legal system. I should rather be tried under the provision of the Bible," Mohammed told the court."

Former Gov Chides Lawal

From Abdul Laro, in Ilorin

Former civilian governor of Kwara State, Chief Cornelius Olatunji Adebayo, has criticised the personalisation of public projects in Kwara State, describing it as "comical, irritating and insulting".

In his preliminary comment on 2002 appropriation bill presented to the state assembly by Governor Mohammed Lawal, Chief Adebayo tasked the lawmakers to address the issue because "we are fast becoming a laughing stock all over the federation."

According to him, a personality cult of the meanest order is becoming the signpost of our state as if political sloganeering is our personality adding that "UP Kwara will unite us all and will serve our purpose in this regard" rather than UP Lawal.

Chief Adebayo, who spoke to newsmen in Ilorin at the weekend, said, "Whatever the state's money is invested on must reflect the state's name only."

He charged the assembly's budget and projects monitoring committee to ensure that adequate attention is given to the disbursement of funds for approved projects, noting that the House must justify its position as an effective arm of government under a presidential constitution.

Chief Adebayo called for a permanent solution to the water problem in Ilorin and other parts of the state to minimise the problem of water shortages.

From Kabir Dogon-Daji, in Sokoto

The presiding judge, Mallam Bawa Buhari Tambuwal, however, explained to the suspect that "the injunctions of the Bible are no less grave as regards to stealing."

He asked the accused to recite some verses in the

Holy Bible in the books of Matthew, Exodus and other related verses that stipulated the punishment to be meted on any one found guilty of stealing.

The judge, who allowed the suspect to read the Holy Book before the court later asked Mohammed to tell the court what the Bible said, whereupon the suspect told the court in tears that the punishment equals

that spelt out by the Holy Qur'an.



Gov. Bafarawa

He confessed being ignorant of the fact that the Bible has similar provisions on those guilty of stealing and pleaded for leniency.

In his plea, Mohammed said he was a student in one of the institutions in the state and cutting his right wrist would certainly end his scholarship.

"If my right wrist is cut off definitely I can neither

write nor engage in a menial job that would sustain me. I will be psychologically disturbed and so will my poor family," he told the court.

However, the presiding judge, Bawa Tambuwal, ordered that the suspect be remanded in prison custody and adjoined the case to December 12 for ruling.

Copyright council to fight plagiarism in varsities

The Nigerian Copyright Council (NCC) is to launch a campaign aimed at eradicating copyright infringement amongst students and lecturers in Nigerian universities.

Speaking at a one-day workshop on piracy and plagiarism held at the University of Abuja at the weekend by the copyright council, and stakeholders in the book industry, the Director-General, Dr. S. O. Williams, said the commission would not relent in its effort to stem the practice.

He said the piracy scourge was not only adversely affecting the Nigerian Book Industry but also

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

seriously undermining the efficacy of the National Educational policy.

"The alleged involvement of the students and academics of our tertiary institutions in such ignoble acts is particularly unacceptable for it taints their integrity as role models.

This is obviously besides the moral and ethical consequences of unjust enrichment, intellectual theft and fraudulent claims that characterise piracy, plagiarism and other copy right abuses," he said.

To arrest the development, Williams said the councils have initiated broad-based sector as well as investing significant funds on public enlighten-

ment campaigns.

According to him, "The first phase of the campaign will involve a series of national workshops in the six geopolitical zones of the country focussing primarily on the theme, "Piracy in Nigeria's Higher Institution while the second phase will be National Anti- Piracy Action Programme in these institution.

In a message to the workshop, the Minister of Culture and Tourism, Ms Boma Bromillow Jack, advised authors to seek legal redress anytime their rights are infringed.

The workshop was attended by members of the Association of Nigerian Authors led by its Secretary-General, Haruna Penni.

FRCN promotes 417 staff

The management of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) has announced the promotion of 417 members of staff in all the five FRCN stations nationwide even as it has released N14 million to staff as car loans.

The promotion, which was announced by the Di-

rector-General, Mr. Eddie Iroh, is in line with the commitment of the present management of the corporation to reward hard work, honesty ad dedication.

Mr. Iroh said elevation of staff would be a continuous exercise as the management was committed to motivating staff for optimum performance.

It would be recalled that

last October the Director-General, while dedicating his recent Rolls Royce Award 2001 for Innovation in Management, to all his staff disclosed that another round of car loans and promotions were in the offing to further motivate the FRCN staff. This, he has now fulfilled through the release of N14 million for staff car loans. It would be recalled that 451 staff were promoted in November last year by the present FRCN, management.

...Commiserates with VON

The Director-General of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, FRCN, Mr. Eddie Iroh, has expressed sympathy with the two members of staff of Voice of Nigeria, (VON), Messrs Stephen Kuka and Olajimi Jaje, who were shot and badly wounded by hoodlums last weekend in Lagos while on official assignment.

In his sympathy message to the Director-General of VON, Chief Taiwo Alimi, Mr. Iroh expressed shock that a broadcast vehicle conveying staff to early morning duty could be flagged down and fired at.

Chief Alimi thanked Mr. Iroh for his sympathy and disclosed that the two staff were responding to treatment in a Lagos hospital.



Eddie Iroh, DG, FRCN

RAMADAN 25 1422H (Mon 10 Dec, 2001)

P.M. P.M. P.M. P.M. A.M. A.M.
Ishai Magrib Asar Zuhur Fitar-rana Alfijir

7.03 6.09, 3.33, 12.28, 6.37, 5.22

The above represents the earliest times of the daily obligatory prayer for Kaduna. Below are the times variations in respect of named towns.

Zuhur variations can serve for Asar prayer while those in respect of Magrib could do well for Ishai.

TOWNS	المغرب Magrib Minutes	الظهر Zuhur Minutes	الاجير Alfijir Minutes
Aba	+9	0	-9
Abakaliki	+10	+3	-4
Abeokuta	+23	+17	+11
Abuja	+4	+1	-1
Akure	+14	+9	+4
Argungu	+7	+11	+15
Ankpa	+4	-1	-6
Auchi	+11	+5	-1
Azare	-13	-11	-9
Bama	-27	-25	-23
Bauchi	+9	-9	-9
Benin	+15	+8	+1
Bichi	-6	-3	0
Bida	+9	+6	+4
Birnin Kebbi	+10	+13	+16
Blu	-19	-19	-19
Calabar	+6	-3	-12
Damaturu	-21	-18	-16
Daura	-8	-4	0
Dutse	-10	-7	-5
Enugu	+7	0	-7
Funtua	-1	+1	+2
Gombe	-15	-15	-15
Gumi	+6	+9	+11
Gusau	-1	+2	+4
Gwadabawa	+4	+9	+13
Hadejia	-13	-10	-7
Ibadan	+19	+14	+9
Ife	+17	+12	+7
Ilorin	+15	+12	+9
Jalingo	-13	-16	-18
Jere	+1	-1	-2
Jos	-5	-6	-7
Kafanchan	-1	-3	-5
Kalama	+15	+13	+12
Kafin Maiyaki	-6	-3	-1
Kano	-7	-4	-2
Katsina	-4	0	+4
Kontogora	+8	+8	+8
Lafia	-2	-5	-8
Lagos	+23	+16	+9
Lokoja	+7	+3	-1
Maiduguri	-26	-23	-21
Makurdi	+1	-4	-9
Minna	+6	+4	+2
Misau	-15	-13	-12
Mubi	-24	-24	-24
Nguru	-16	-12	-8
Okene	+10	+5	0
Ogbomoso	+17	+13	+9
Onitsha	+11	+3	-5
Oyo	+18	+14	+10
Port Harcourt	+11	+2	-7
Potiskum	-17	-15	-13
Sagamu	+21	+15	+9
Saki	+19	+16	+13
Sokoto	+5	+9	+13
Umuahia	+9	0	-9
Wukari	-5	-9	-13
Wurno	+3	+8	+12
Warri	+18	+7	-2
Yola	-18	-20	-22
Zaria	-2	-1	0
Cotonou - Benin	+27	+20	+13
Ndjamena - Chad	-33	-30	-28
Niamey - Niger	+16	+21	+25
Zinder - Niger	-12	-6	-1
Yaounde - Cameroun	-5	-16	-26

NEWS

Briefs

Abuja

The Nigerian Army has announced the death of Brigadier General Lawrence Zidougha.

The late General Lawrence died on Thursday, November 8, in a ghastly auto-crash along the Ife-Ibadan expressway.

Before his death, late General Lawrence was the commander, Head quarters, command Army Records, Lokoja, Kogi State.

Ilorin

Alhaji Kayode Elshinla, who is on suspension on orders of the government over allegations of bribe-taking at the weekend denied complicity in any financial scam when he appeared before the Kwara State House of Assembly (KSHA).

"We are in the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, I swear with the name of Almighty Allah I never demanded money from any of my principals, I am innocent," he swore by the Qur'an.

Port Harcourt

Governor Peter Odili of Rivers State has urged youths in the state to avail themselves of the opportunity of the revived state scholarship scheme by returning to school.

The governor made the plea at the weekend when a delegation of Ndomi community led by the traditional ruler, the Awoh of Ndomi, Gabriel Okeya Obi II, paid him a courtesy call at the Government House, in Port Hartcourt.

Jalingo

President Obasanjo has warned any ethnic group in the country thinking of secession to drop the idea as the Federal Government is committed to the corporate unity of the country, adding that "nothing would deter us from this course."

Lagos

The Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) has condemned President Obasanjo's threats to out-law strikes in the education system, and declared that "the right to persecute disputes through the medium of strike remains an inalienable right of Nigerian workers."

The congress made this declaration in a press statement signed by its acting General Secretary, Comrade John Odah, and made available to Daily Trust

A renewed call has been made to the Federal Government to consider dredging the Calabar Sea Port for enhanced operations of the Calabar Free Trade Zone.

Making the call in Calabar, the Cross River State Capital during an inspection tour of the Nigerian Port Authority (N.P.A.) Calabar, the State Governor, Mr. Donald Duke, said now that activities at the Port have started in earnest, there was the utmost need to dredge the Port and expand infrastructure



Gov Duke

Governor Duke calls on FG to dredge Calabar Port

From Bassey Ita, in Calabar

there.

The Governor, who later went abroad a Malteship "SEA TARAK, VALLETA" that berthed at the Port to discharge 1,170 cars, also pointed out that "the nation stands to lose greatly if Nigeria boundships are directed to other countries as a result of the shallowness or narrowness of the Port.

Duke further stated that the state government was making independent plans to complement activities at the port by strengthening infrastructure there and building more houses as well as creating parking spaces to curb congestion at the Port.

Accompanied on board by his Deputy, Chief Oyom Oupa, and other members of the State Executive Council, Governor Duke used the occasion to woo other ship-

ping companies to utilise the facilities at the Calabar free trade zone.

Speaking earlier, the General Manager of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Eastern Operations Captain O.O. Abidoye, commended the

efforts of the state government for successfully spearheading the conversion of the Calabar Port to the status of a free Port.

According to the General Manager, the Port has available a beautiful parking area,

well-equipped cargo handling facilities, ware houses, and navigation to the port poses no danger adding that "the facilities here at the sea are as those at Tin Can Island and compares with any elsewhere."

Nigeria may not know true federalism unless... - David West

Former Petroleum Minister, Professor Tam David-West has declared that the country may not know true federalism and democracy unless it has more statesmen than politicians."

David-West made the observation in Ibadan, the Oyo State Capital while delivering a lecture entitled "Nigeria: Grouping for Federalism

From Yinka Oladoyinbo, in Ibadan

and democracy," at the 2001 Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), Oyo State Chapter, Annual General Lecture.

He faulted the present arrangement which rests too much power at the centre saying, "what we are practicing in Nigeria presently is a unitary state with the facade of federalism where the central or federal government is essentially the Alpha and the Omega."

The former minister further stressed that the cardinal object of federalism was national integration and cohesion within the realities of sectoral heterogeneity, saying "the component units in a federal system enjoy sovereignty within its own sphere of responsibilities."

"To all intents and purposes, what we are practicing saying unitary state with the facade of federalism, and thus governmental fraudulence

is perpetuated over time simply because some groups or persons are gaining handsomely from the make-believe.

With the features of true federalism clearly stated and known by all and sundry it is, therefore, a clear manifestation to everyone that what we have in Nigeria is a travesty, a distortion of federalism of virology added."

The supremacy of the constitution, which is a major feature of federalism is not respected in our so-called federalism, the Sharia controversy is a good example of showing that the supremacy of the constitution is only in theory, we also do not seem to have faith in our supreme court," the former University don added.

On the agitation for Sovereign National Conference (SNC) the former minister said there was no need for such a thing saying "I am not in favour of a Sovereign National Conference, because it confers on the members celestial infallibility."

Immigration urges joint border patrols

The Jigawa State Deputy Comptroller of Nigeria Immigration Service, Alhaji Muh'd Rabi, has urged members of the ECOWAS to provide a strong policy that would enable its members to share a joint border patrol.

The Deputy Comptroller-General made the call in a report presented at a three-day workshop for the monitoring of ECOWAS decisions in North-Western zone, organised by the department of political affairs in Ministry of Corporation and Integration in Africa, held at National Institution of Hospitality and Tourism, Kano.

Alhaji Rabi stated that immigration in any country has a vital role to play in moving the activities of ECOWAS to desired goals.

He, however, said that to avoid illegal entry, a joint border patrol should be introduced between members of ECOWAS to discourage criminals from entering into any of the ECOWAS countries.

Alhaji Rabi'u then urged the Federal Government to provide more facilities to the Nigeria Immigration Services, as according to him, "the service is handicapped, because we don't have enough working facilities to handle all the necessary duties, especially at our borders across the nation."

Answering a question concerning relationship between citizens of other countries he said, "Nigeria Immigration Services has cordial relationship with them.

"We share the same religion and language with some of the citizens in countries like Ghana, Cameroun and

From Yusha'a Adam Ibrahim, in Kano

Niger Republic. For instance the people of Maigatari in Jigawa State share the same tribal marks with people from some part of Niger Republic."

In another report presented by a Bank executive,

Alhaji Aliyu Sagir Yar'adua of the Habib Bank Nigeria noted that the banks across the ECOWAS countries have failed in uniting their banking sectors because of lack of formal transaction between countries and illiteracy among the citizens.

Governor Makarfi recommends registration of immigrants

Governor Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi of Kaduna State has recommended the massive registration of immigrants in all the states of the federation in order to monitor their activities.

Governor Ahmed Makarfi, said this measure has become necessary in view of the increasing incidents of communal clashes in our societies and other forms of criminal activities involving legal immigrants.

The Governor, who spoke through the Secretary to the Kaduna State Government, Mr. Bonat, at a three day workshop for the monitoring of the ECOWAS Decisions in the North-Western Zone, held at National Institute for Hospitality and Tourism (NIHOTOURS) in Bagauda, Kano, advised the Immigration Service to work in conjunction with states local governments, traditional rulers, communities and organisations, for effective monitoring of immigrants with a view to exposing those with criminal tendencies.

He expressed disappointment over the porous nature of our borders which makes illegal immigration easy adding, "sadly, once in the hin-

From Jamilah Nuhu Musa, in Kano

terland land, they melt into the society and become hidden with Nigerians employing some of them as cheap labour."

D-General decries immorality in public service

The Director General of the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP), Dr. David A. Okongwu, has decried the high level of corruption and immoral practices in the public service.

Speaking during an interdenominational end of year Thanksgiving Service organised by the NOTAP Christian Fellowship in Abuja, at the weekend, Dr. Okongwu called on all stakeholders in government to join the crusade against corruption and immorality by inculcating good moral behaviours in their staff.

Dr. Okongwu stressed the need for public servants to uphold the noble ethics of public service and urged members of NOTAP staff in particular and the Ministry of Science and Technology

in general to be prayerful and be dedicated to their duties.

He advocated the setting up of Christian Fellowships as a check against corruption and immorality in government agencies and commended the staff of NOTAP for their initiative in that direction.

The NOTAP Christian Fellowship end of the year Thanksgiving Service, which was attended by some members of the Moslem community of NOTAP, also recorded representatives from other Research and Development (R&D) institutes such as the Nigerian Building and Road Research (NBRRI), the Raw Material Research and Development Council (RMRDC), and the Sheda Science and Technology Complex (SHESTCO).

A former university

campus President of the Scripture Union Bro. Sam Osivwemu, featured as the Guest Speaker at the Thanksgiving Service. The occasion was also used to pray for the country, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Research and Development (R&D) institutes, NOTAP and families of NOTAP staff.



Turner Isoun, Science & Technology Minister

INSIDE POLITICS

Briefs Lagos

Embattled chairman of Lagos Island Local Government, Prince Lukeman Ajose, last Friday failed to stop the panel of inquiry set up to investigate allegations of financial mismanagement and abuse of office levelled against him from sitting.

Ajose, through his counsel, Mr. Adetokunbo Mumuni, had, in an oral application at a Lagos high court, urged the court to make an order stopping the panel from sitting while his suit seeking its entire prohibition was going on.

The court, however, declined to give the order, saying that it would rather order a speedy trial in the substantive suit.

In the substantive suit, Ajose is challenging the setting up of the panel by the Chief Judge of Lagos State, arguing that it was not done in line with constitutional procedures.

The panel, through its counsel, Mr. Kola Awodehin (SAN), however, filed a motion challenging the jurisdiction of the court to entertain Ajose's suit against the panel.

Kwara

A new political association has emerged in Kwara State under the leadership of a former civilian governor in the state, Chief Cornelius Olatunji Adebayo.

Tagged, "Kwara Progressive Movement," the association has members and sympathizers who cut across all the existing three political parties in the state.

Speaking in an interview with newsmen after a meeting of the group at the weekend, Chief Adebayo declared that he had no secret agenda to scheme his way back to the Government House.

On the electoral law, the former governor asked aggrieved state governors to go to court, explaining that "any law that contradicts the provisions of the constitution is not valid."

Taraba/Benue crisis, Na'Abba says FG must supervise refugees' return

Speaker, House of Representatives, Alhaji Ghali Na'Abba, appalled by the large number of people displaced during the Jukun/Tiv clashes in Taraba and Benue States, has tasked the Federal Government to supervise the return of refugees to their original homes.

Na'Abba, who condemned the massive destruction which took place in communities affected by the conflicts, urged the Federal Government to apart from constituting a federal commission to supervise the return of displaced persons, provide them with assistance to enable refugees begin life anew.

The speaker, who addressed House correspondents on the outcome of his visit to troubled areas in the two states, said he was calling for the intervention of the Federal Government to handle the refugee situation because of the issues involved in the conflict.

"Obviously, even if the security situation were normal, the victims cannot on their own, begin life again. And the state governments cannot handle the matter without creating further animosities because of the



Alh. Ghali Na'Abba

partisan nature of the conflicts," he added.

However, the Speaker said the Federal Government must deploy more troops to effectively police the crisis areas, before refugees can be convinced to return, adding that the deployment of troops should be for a short period after which the police can take over.

Said Na'Abba: "The disaster in these areas is obviously bigger than those elsewhere, which have tasked the intervention of our government abroad. I believe we can no longer continue to play the ostrich any further."

Giving reasons for the conflict in Taraba/Benue States, the Speaker said the conflicts were ignited by differences over citizenship rights and access to resources.

He explained that this phenomenon has given birth to a dangerous virus of indigene-settler dichotomy, adding that, "it is wrong to categorise Nigerians as strangers in Nigeria."

The Speaker also castigated the elite in the two states for fanning the embers of ethnicity and violence which have rocked communities in Taraba/Benue States.

"The Nigerian elite has become so selfish and decadent that in spite of all the other frontiers available for political advancement, the most convenient is ethnicity. Left to the people in those communities, they will live at peace with each other.

"But the elite who compete for power sow hate in the hearts of the people and flee to the cities when they lose powers. In Kano, Jos, Benue, Taraba and Zamfara, it is the properties of the common man that were destroyed," Na'Abba said.

was not in support of the bill when he could have asked the supreme court to interpret the constitutional provision.

He stated that the President and the National Assembly in tampering with a constitutional provision, without amending the constitution was wrong.

Tribute to a Dear Leader The memory Lingers on...



Late Gen. Shehu Musa Yar'Adua

May your gentle soul continue to rest in perfect peace

Four years have passed like a flash since Tafida left us.

Today however, we all remember you on how you touched the lives of everyone and how good you were to humanity and your struggle for democracy. And so, the good memory of Tafida lingers on and it is our source of inspiration and pride.

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2003: In-fighting in south-east states worries group

By Henry Omu

Worried by the political in-fighting and tension in all the states in the south-east geopolitical zone, the South-East Development Initiative (SEDI) has initiated moves aimed at promoting politics of tolerance among the various contending forces for power in the region.

According to the group, political crises in the south-east states are blown out of proportion, adding that in all the states, governors are not allowed to govern because of the intervention of powerful forces.

Speaking to newsmen in Abuja at the weekend, a member of SEDI, Mr. Elvis Agukwe, mentioned the struggle for political power in Enugu between Governor Chimaroke Nnamadi and Senator Jim Nwobodo as a source of worry to his organisation.

Mr. Agukwe said in

Anambra State, Governor Chinkwoke Nbadinuju and Chief Emeka Ofor are embroiled in their own feud; in Ebonyi it is the face-off between the Senate President, Chief Pius Anyim and Governor Sam Egwu, while Governor Orji Kalu is pitched against his deputy and the Abuja group led by Transport Minister, Chief Ojo Maduekw.

While condemning the politics of bitterness prevalent in the south-east, he said "it is unfortunate that the energy which could otherwise have been channelled into development of the region is being wasted fighting each other.

"Igbos should re-define their perception of politics. We cannot complain of marginalisation when we marginalised ourselves," Mr. Agukwe stated.

To achieve its objectives of restoring sanity to the south-east political arena, the group says it seeks to peruse the Igbo cause through constructive dialogue, negotiation, persuasion and reasonable criticisms in, "advancing genuine reconciliation and unity among Ndi-Igbo."

Moreover, SEDI has slated a lecture with the theme; "Ndigbo in the development of modern Nigeria: Myths and realities" and to be delivered by Enugu Governor, Chimaroke Nnamani on Friday, December 14.

The lecture which will hold at the Imo Concord Hotel, Owerri, will be hosted by Imo State Governor, Chief Achike Udenwa, under the chairmanship of Chief Emeka Ojukwu, Ikemba Nnewi, with the Senate President, Chief Anyim Pius Anyim as special guest.

RIGHT WAY

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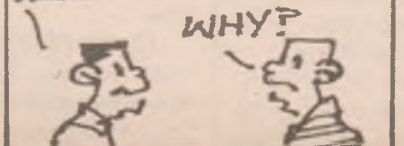
SINCE OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHAIRMAN CAME INTO OFFICE, HE HAS DONE NOTHING REALLY?



YES. BUT THAT WILL SOON CHANGE. THE MAN WILL SOON MEET HIS WATERLOO.



A YOUNG MARKET WOMAN HAS INDICATED HER INTENTION TO CHALLENGE HIM AT THE NEXT ELECTION. HE'S NOW SCARED.



99.99% OF THE WOMEN IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARE SOLIDLY BEHIND HER!



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Idu-Karmo road: Always busy. Pix Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman.

President Obasanjo's FCT tour Where he did not visit

The story of President Olusegun Obasanjo's visit to the Federal Capital Territory is not yet over as residents of Karmo and Idu are still smarting from the neglect of their areas in the President's itinerary.

Most of the residents of these areas who spoke to *Abuja Trust* expressed dismay with the decision by the president not to visit the areas.

According to Mrs Ijeoma Ukpai of the Immigration Department who lives in Idu, "majority of the civil servants in Abuja and company workers are resident in the satellite towns especially in Idu, Karmo and Gwagwa. This is important enough to have warranted the president's visit."

She urged President Obasanjo to conclude his tour of FCT by visiting these

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani
and Yakubu Ozohu-
Suleiman

settlements to appease the residents.

An architect who introduced himself as Jude described the president's inability to visit Karmo as an "unpardonable oversight."

"It would have afforded us the opportunity to present the true situation of infrastructure here. No water, no roads and candle-equivalent power supply," he said.

To Mallam Garba Umar, a trader in Karmo market, the president must have decided not to visit Idu and Karmo because he does not want to see how the poor people of Abuja are really suffering.

"Here in Idu-Karmo, we have a lot of problems which, if the president had come, we would have seized the

opportunity to intimate him about that," he said.

A petty trader in Old Karmo, Madam Adodo, summarised her reaction thus: "they don't regard people living here as Nigerians because they want to demolish the place."

But to Mrs. Adamu, a roadside bean-cake seller, people should not blame the president for not visiting them.

"What is he coming to do? He has no business here. There is nothing for him to commission because there is no development," she hollered.

A driver, Mr. Frank Onya, blamed FCT officials for the neglect of Idu, Karmo and Gwagwa in the president's itinerary.

According to Mr. Onya, "These officials merely tried to hide the problems facing

the residents from President Obasanjo."

While some are still hopeful that the president would still visit these settlements, some were not even aware of President Obasanjo's two-day tour of the FCT.

Mr. Enyim, a roadside mechanic, recalled that former Heads of State, General Ibrahim Babangida and General Abdulsalami Abubakar had cause to visit these areas and expressed hope that the president might still visit them.

"I heard he came around Jabi. That's okay. It could be the 'go-slow' here that prevented him from coming," he said.

It could be recalled that President Obasanjo on December 3 and 4 toured all the area councils of the FCT.

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Abuja Trust

News

Dualisation of Nyanya/Keffi road FG orders property owners to vacate

The Federal Government has directed owners and occupants of properties marked for demolition for the dualisation of Nyanya/Keffi road to vacate those buildings immediately their compensation is paid.

A letter to the affected persons signed by the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, Alhaji Musa Umoru Abubakar, stated that all property owners so affected have been granted the opportunity to salvage their properties as a means of further cushioning the effect of the displacement.

Abubakar said that all the structures for which such compensation has been paid shall be demolished in the public interest.

On the complaints by the property owners that their properties were undervalued, the Permanent Secretary said that the action of government to pay compensation was not outright purchase of the properties so affected, but

By Emmanuel Ande
compensation in compliance with acquisition for public



Chief Tony Anenih,
Works & Housing Minister.

use.

In his words, "The payment of compensation on the Nyanya/Keffi road project is not guided by the evaluation done by the speculative estate valuer who intentionally over-valued the compensation in order to enhance their fees," he said.

He maintained that the payment of compensation was based on the evaluation carried out by the government appointed estate surveyor/valuer.

The Permanent Secretary stressed further that the evaluation, was scrutinised by government officials and was found to be consistent

Court strikes out suit against Julius Berger

An Abuja high court, presided over by Justice Monica Mensem, has struck out a suit filed against Julius Berger Nigeria Plc., by one Eghosa Idufueko, over the non-payment of his deceased brother's entitlements.

The plaintiff, through his counsel, Mr. Raphael Origbo,

told the court that he was no longer interested in the case, as the company had eventually paid the entitlements.

Idufueko had filed the suit against Julius Berger over the delay in the payment of entitlements of his late brother, Mr. Anthony Idifiekko, an engineer with the

with the norms of the profession.

It would be recalled that last week, owners and occupants of properties affected by the dualisation of Nyanya/Keffi road addressed a press conference complaining of under-payment for their properties and threatened to take legal action if government did not address their problems.

The victims alleged that some ministry officials diverted the money budgeted for the compensation exercise to their personal needs.

Abuja Trust learnt that about N500 million was budgeted for the compensation exercise but could not confirm how much was spent on the programme.

Labour House fire Engineers absolve members

Mr. Kashim Ali, the Abuja chapter chairman of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE) has absolved his colleagues of any professional liability in the fire out-break that recently gutted the studios and offices of AIT/Ray Power, located within the 12-floor "Labour House" in Abuja.

Ali told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja, that his members received a clean bill of health, following the submissions of an NSE technical committee, which looked into the circumstances surrounding the fire and the extent to which its members could have been liable.

He said that from their findings, the fire was caused by "operational problems and not as a result of any defects in the design or construction of the high-rise building.

He said that all the structural, electrical, and mechanical systems of the building were designed and done by Nigerians, and that they met standard requirements obtainable elsewhere.

Ali also dismissed allegations that engineers colluded with government bureaucrats to inflate contract costs and bills of quantities, to defraud the system, saying that most often, the engineers' intervention was only sought after negotiations would have been completed.

"We had situations,

where government functionaries believed that the easiest means to make money is through engineering contracts," he said.

Ali said, "by the time we go through the tenders/bids as submitted by the contractors, to do the arithmetic checks, where applicable, we still make some discoveries, which may result in contract review with time."

He said that variations did not apply to the contract sums, adding "there is also the time element."

According to the chairman. In spite of the efforts of Nigerians engineers, the NSE is worried about accusations of fraudulent practices.

He said the society launched a campaign against corruption in engineering projects in 1997, with the hope that government would capitalise on the initiative to make an affirmation and support the effort.

"But we were disappointed," Ali said, "because government seemed not to have appreciated the exercise, and did not also react accordingly to reported cases of share practices in the construction industry, nor legislated against the acts."

He said that there were sanctions awaiting members, who violated the professional ethics or engaged in unhealthy practices, if the allegations were substantiated.

Wake up, Abba-Gana tells FCT directors

The Minister of Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Engr. Muhammed Abba-Gana, has urged all the directors in the ministry to rise up to defend the responsibilities reposed on them by the Federal Government.

While addressing the directors at the weekend after the two-day state visit of President Olusegun Obasanjo in FCT, the minister said that the directors should rise up in achieving a high level of accountability, transparency and uprightness, adding that those traits were weapons against corruption and illegality, warning that they must not condone any ill no matter the person involved.

Abba-Gana stated that from now on, an appropriate machinery will be put in place to ensure that all official land matters are computerised in order to avoid problems of double allocation of plots, loss of files and other vital documents as well as to enable officers call for information without tears.

The minister maintained that now that Mr. President's visit had cleared the road for his administration, by spelling out the spirit of the Abuja master plan, he will go out to pull down all structures on water-pipelines, sewage lines, road network and green-belt areas will be demolished.

He stressed that the sewage scheme was designed to collect sewage from the neighbourhoods

through tertiary sewer lines via secondary lines to interceptor lines and to the trunk lines for conveyance by gravity to the central sewage treatment plant, he wondered why some people out of greediness would

build illegal structures to destroy the master plan.

Abba-Gana observed that in the annals of Nigeria's history, President Obasanjo's visit to FCT was historical and revealing, stressing that the declaration

and pronouncements made by the president will bring a lot of blessing to all the residents of FCT.

He expressed happiness to the traditional rulers, Area Council chairmen, pres corps of the ministry and the entire residents of FCT for a job well done during the two-day state visit of President Olusegun Obasanjo, to the federal capital.

Earlier in his speech, the Permanent Secretary, Dr. Babangida Aliyu, assured the minister that the officials of FCT will do everything possible to move the ministry forward.

Traders return to Giri onion market

The Giri onion market along the Gwagwalada-Airport road junction destroyed during the president's tour of the FCT is springing up again as traders have begun reconstruction.

When Abuja Trust called at the market over the weekend, the usually busy market noted for cheap supplies of onions, local and Irish potatoes, fruits and yams was a shadow of itself.

Apart from few traders displaying their wares mostly on tables in the middle of the ruins of their shanty shades, the ever

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

busy market would have passed for a ghost town.

Some of the traders with members of their families were seen gathering sticks for the reconstruction of their shades.

Some of them who spoke with Abuja Trust described the incident as a blow especially during their festive period.

"This is a very big blow," one of the traders said. "They burnt everything here to ashes just because President Obasanjo was passing by. Who told them that Obasanjo was not aware of road side markets," he queried.

Abuja Trust gathered that men of the Abuja Environmental Protection Board had destroyed the Giri market in readiness for President Obasanjo's visit last week.

In a related development, owners of road structures destroyed in preparation for the visit are returning to base. Some of them affected in Berger, Bwari and Dutse are mobilising to sue, Abuja Trust gathered.



Engr. Abba-Gana,
FCT Minister.



From right: Chief Judge of FCT, Justice Dahiru Saleh (with Fex cap), Alhaji Haliru Dahiru, former FCT Minister, Lt. Gen. Jerry Useni, Mr. Solomon Eyoza (in suit), Senator Martyns-Kuye, Minister of State, Finance and Major-General Gado Nasko (backing camera) at a dinner to mark President Obasanjo's two-day tour of FCT.

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Public Notice

NOBLE THOUGHTS ORGANIZATION

This is to notify the general public that the above named Organisation has applied for registration under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters act of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Mr. Johnson Akponojivi Ikube
2. Mr. Jones Eshiet Ntia
3. Mrs. Oladunni Stella Olasehan

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

Signed
H.M. Haliru Esq
 (Solicitor)
 Plot 2001, Michael Okpara Street,
 Wuse Zone 5, Abuja.

Public Notice

THE INCROPORATED TRUSTEES OF VICTORY FOVOURED MINISTRY

The general public is hereby informed that the above named mentioned Association has applied to be registered under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act.

The Trustees are:

1. Rev. Mercy Atas Amanda	-	President
2. Bon Aham	-	Vice President
3. Miss Mainiaye Ibiere Dede	-	Sec. General
4. Daniel Atas	-	PRO

Any objection to this application should be addressed to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission Area 11, Garki Abuja within 28 days of this publication

Signed
SECRETARY GENERAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as **MOHAMMED MUSA** now wish to be known and addressed as **MOHAMMED MUSA AHMED**. All other documents remain valid. NNPC and the general public to note.

I formerly known as **MISS LUCY ACHETU IDOKO** now wish to be call **MRS LUCY AUGUSTINE ODUMU**. Federal Ministry of Transport and the general public to note.

I was formerly known and called as **HAMISU ALHAJJ BASIRU** and now changed to **HAMISU HASSAN**. All former documents remain absolutely valid. Jigawa State Ministry of Education and general public are to take note of it.

Public Notice

INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL RESEARCH CENTRE, SOKOTO

The above name organization wishes to apply for registration under part 'C' of the COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT NO 1 1990. The Trustees are as follows:

1. PROFESSOR HAMIDU AHMED
2. DR. BALA MUHAMMAD YAURI
3. DR. ABDULKADIR USMAN JUNAIDU
4. MALLAM ABUBAKAR BELLO
5. DR. BELLO SHAIBU ORICHA
6. MALLAMA AISHATU SULEIMAN

Any objection against the registration should reach the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission P.M.B. 198 Area 11, Garki Abuja within 28 days from the date of the publication.

Public Notice

AREWA FILM PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA

This is to inform the general public that the above named association has applied for registration under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990. The Trustees are:

1. Hon. Abdu Haro Mashi
2. Balaraba Ramat
3. Sani Mu'azu
4. Abdulkarim Mohammed
5. Sadiq Balewa

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Abuja Trust

People

In fairness to others, there are thousands of destitute children across the country. Sequo'olo is not the only one. However, those who are lucky to have been born with silver spoon in their mouth and those who, though are not born with silver spoon in the mouth but are equally lucky to have been enjoying parental care may not know exactly the pains associated with destitution.

But who feels it knows it. Sequo'olo is a little boy, certainly not more than 6 years old. He is born to Gbagyi parents. Having contact with this boy is easy, and those who wish to do so should go to Karmo, a satellite town in the FCT and ask of the heap of refuse dump located behind the market. There you would see him. Much more than his parent's squalor residence in Karmo, Shekwollo frequently hangs around the refuse dump, either picking one or two remains of waste food or beckoning on passers-by for alms.

Shekwollo is not mad. Neither does he have any form of mental malady at present, but there is the tendency that such may become of him from an accumulation of the psychological trauma associated with his very unique circumstance. He is incredibly dirty. From the accumulation of dirt around his teeth, one could rightly deduce that neither chewing stick nor toothbrush had visited Sequo'olo's mouth for the past two years.

The round shapes of the eye sockets are clearly revealed, with the eyeballs standing distinctively at the sockets centre. He seems to require a lot of energy to pull his eyelids when he blinks. So, he does that very slowly. The chins are hollow, quite indicative, indeed, of one who has suffered from protracted hunger.

As for Sequo'olo's skin, forget it! It has been rendered emphatically dark by over exposure to unfriendly weather. Probably the pores and the holes have all been blocked entirely by some sedimentation of dirt. This is not a laughing matter.

Any passer-by who appears decent would definitely have the little boy beckon on him or her very persistently, and he would never leave one until one gives him something. He does not ask for too much. "Oga, give me N5. Give me N5, Give me N10." If one utters anything to him, Shekwollo would repeat exactly what is said and moves further. "Give me N5. Give me N10, I have change on my hand." He begs in Hausa and English

Shekwollo, the child destitute

In this piece, Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman of Abuja Trust presents a story that touches the heart. Insanity is of different kinds. Some are self-inflicted while others are consequent results of the vicissitudes of life – particularly hardship due to poverty. Six years old Shekwollo, partly an orphan, seems to be hunted down by insanity of the second kind. This begs the question as to what is happening to the rights of the child. Read on.



Shekwollo. Is he really mad?

languages

In fact, at a sight of Shekwollo, one would easily conclude that he is not a normal child. Something should be wrong with him mentally. But the little boy could say something about himself and his parents. "I am attending a primary school in Karmo here, (pointing at a direction) my father is alive but my mother is not alive. My father is at home but he does not have money." But does it mean that you are looking for money because of your school? Abuja Trust asked. Shekwollo replied, "No, I am hungry." Very sincere indeed. He however said that he takes some of the money he gets each to his father at home.

Shekwollo again told Abuja Trust that he is the only surviving child of his parent, a situation which most probably has been responsible for the abject poverty in which

himself and his father found themselves.

Abuja Trust spoke with Miss Chinyere, a young lady who lives in the neighbourhood of Shekwollo. She said, "Shekwollo is a very popular boy in this area. He begs for money. His parents are very poor. They are Gbagyi people. His father is alive but his mother is dead. The boy is attending school here in Karmo. To me he looks like an abnormal person. So I am sure that he does not know what happens in the classroom. He only goes there to play."

The question that visits the mind at this moment is whether the Nigerian child is really protected. If the answer is to the affirmative, another question follows: whose child is protected? Of the dominant minority or the dominant majority?

It was exactly on November 2, 1989 that the United Nations

Convention on the rights of the child was adopted by the General Assembly. Again in order to improve the quality of the life of children worldwide, enhance their dignity, protect their "inalienable"

rights and ultimately mobilise and focus global attention on their physical, mental, moral and spiritual development, UNICEF organised a world summit for children on September 29 and 30, 1990 in New York.

As the most widely ratified international treaty, over 178 countries including Nigeria, are said to have adopted the convention. The 1990's was proclaimed by OAU (now African Union), as "Decade of the African Child," while June 16 every year is set-aside for "Day of the African Child."

Should all these be regarded as mere surface expression of care for

The question that visits the mind at this moment is whether the Nigerian child is really protected. If the answer is to the affirmative, another question follows: whose child is protected? Of the dominant minority or the dominated majority?

the child, especially in this our country where every child is said to have the right to good health, protection from illness, proper medical attention for survival personal growth and development?



Shekwollo, by the refuse dump where he nicks waste food

Shekwollo is not mad. Neither does he have any form of mental malady at present, but there is tendency that such may become of him from an accumulation of the psychological trauma associated with his very unique circumstance. He is incredibly dirty.



NNPC NATIONAL QUIZ COMPETITION

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation is organising a National Quiz Competition covering all states of the federation and FCT, from Tuesday 25th September to Thursday 20th December, 2001.

AREAS OF THE QUIZ COMPETITION

I) Science subjects

- * Biology
- * Physics
- * English Language
- * Chemistry
- * Mathematics

II) NNPC

- * Historical Evolution
- * Products and Services
- * Pipeline Vandalisation (Causes and Solutions) etc.
- * Subsidiaries and their activities
- * Products Distribution

OBJECTIVES

- To Popularize and encourage the study of science amongst students
- Through the questions and answer on the sciences, assist students in their SSCE, GCE, NECO, JAMB and international qualifying exams.
- Through the questions and answers on the NNPC, enlighten students and the general public on the Corporation activities.
- As the programme will be well publicised nationally, to ensure that students and citizens nation wide benefit from the science quiz and know more about NNPC, respectively.
- Through the keen competitions, promote and encourage the competitive spirit amongst students.

PARTICIPANTS

Science students in Senior Secondary School classes.

FORMAT & FIXTURES

For the purpose of the competition, the country has been divided into four zones, (A B C D), with nine states in each zone except zone B which has 10 because of the F.C.T.

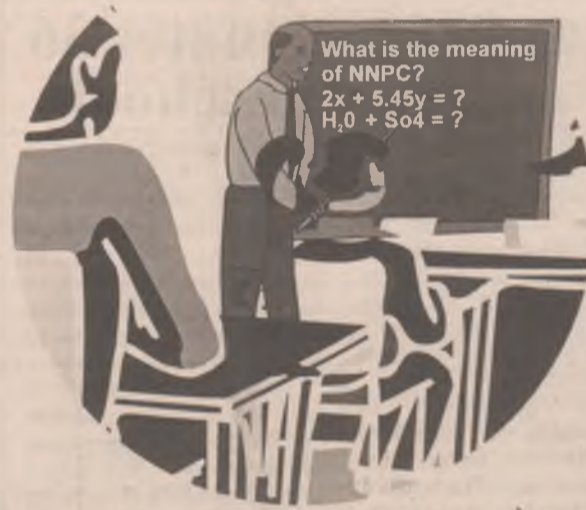
Competitions will take place at four levels viz:

- * Intra State competition to choose State representatives:
- * Knock out competitions to choose states that proceed to zonal finals.
- * Zonal finals to choose the State representing each zone.
- * Grand finale in Abuja between the winners of the zonal finals.

THE DETAILED FIXTURES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

ZONE A

STATES	DATES FOR INTRA-STATE COMPETITION	DATES FOR INTER STATE COMPETITION	ZONAL QUARTER FINALS SEMI FINALS & FINAL DATES
1. KEBBI STATE	25/9/2001	3/12/2001	AT MAIDUGURI DATE 6TH - 7TH DEC. 2001 ZONE A KNOCK-OUTS BETWEEN
2. SOKOTO STATE	26/9/2001		
3. ZAMFARA STATE	27/9/2001		
4. KATSINA STATE	28/9/2001	4/12/2001	3 SETS OF 3 STATES HOLD IN MAIDUGURI TO DETERMINE THE 3RD, 2ND AND 1ST PLACED POSITIONS IN THE ZONE
5. KANO STATE	29/9/2001		
6. JIGAWA STATE	2/10/2001		
7. YOBE STATE	3/10/2001	5/12/2001	
8. BORNO STATE	4/10/2001		
9. GOMBE STATE	5/10/2001		



ZONE C

STATES	DATES FOR INTRA-STATE COMPETITION	DATES FOR INTER STATE COMPETITION	ZONAL QUARTER FINALS SEMI FINALS & FINAL DATES
20. EDO STATE	22/10/2001	19/11/2001	AT BENIN CITY DATE 22nd -23rd NOV. 2001 ZONE C KNOCK-OUTS BETWEEN
21. ONDO STATE	23/10/2001		
22. DELTA STATE	24/10/2001		
23. RIVERS STATE	25/10/2001	20/11/2001	3 SETS OF 3 STATES HOLD IN BENIN CITY TO DETERMINE THE 3RD, 2ND AND 1ST PLACED POSITIONS IN THE ZONE
24. BAYELSA STATE	26/10/2001		
25. IMO STATE	27/10/2001		
26. ABIA STATE	29/10/2001	21/11/2001	
27. AKWA IBOM STATE	30/10/2001		
28. CROSS RIVER STATE	31/10/2001		

ZONE B

STATES	DATES FOR INTRA-STATE COMPETITION	DATES FOR INTER STATE COMPETITION	ZONAL QUARTER FINALS SEMI FINALS & FINAL DATES
10. ADAMAWA STATE	8/10/2001	10/12/2001	AT LAFIA DATE 13TH - 14TH DEC. 2001 ZONE B KNOCK-OUTS BETWEEN
11. TARABA STATE	9/10/2001		
12. BAUCHI STATE	10/10/2001		
13. EBONYI STATE	11/10/2001	11/12/2001	3 SETS OF 3 STATES HOLD IN LAFIA TO DETERMINE THE 3RD, 2ND AND 1ST PLACED POSITIONS IN THE ZONE
14. ENUGU STATE	12/10/2001		
15. ANAMBRA STATE	13/10/2001		
16. PLATEAU STATE	15/10/2001	12/12/2001	
17. NASARAWA STATE	16/10/2001		
18. BENUE STATE	17/10/2001		
19. ABUJA (FCT)	18/10/2001		



ZONE D

STATES	DATES FOR INTRA-STATE COMPETITION	DATES FOR INTER STATE COMPETITION	ZONAL QUARTER FINALS SEMI FINALS & FINAL DATES
29. LAGOS STATE	2/11/2001	26/11/2001	AT KADUNA DATE 29TH-30TH NOV. 2001 ZONE D KNOCK-OUTS BETWEEN
30. OYO STATE	3/11/2001		
31. OGUN STATE	5/11/2001		
32. EKITI STATE	6/11/2001	27/11/2001	3 SETS OF 3 STATES HOLD IN KADUNA TO DETERMINE THE 3RD, 2ND AND 1ST PLACED POSITIONS IN THE ZONE
33. OSUN STATE	7/11/2001		
34. KWARA STATE	8/11/2001		
35. KOGI STATE	9/11/2001	28/11/2001	
36. NIGER STATE	10/11/2001		
37. KADUNA STATE	12/11/2001		

FINALS:

ABUJA

DATE:

17TH - 20TH DECEMBER 2001

- * Winner in Zone A Meets Winner in Zone B Date 17TH DEC., 2001
- * Winner in Zone C Meets Winner in Zone D Date 18TH DEC., 2001

- * Loser's Final For 4th And 3rd Positions Date 19TH DEC, 2001
- * Grand Finale For 2nd And 1st Positions Date 20TH DEC, 2001

Closing /Prize Giving Ceremony for the Competition Holds On 20th Dec, 2001

TIME: 3:00PM.

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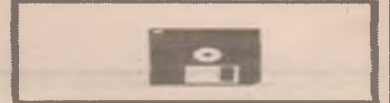
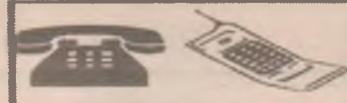
NDU UGHAMADU

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I.T. WORLD



Govt to support computer-in-schools initiative

President Olusegun Obasanjo has pledged the Federal Government's support for the computer-in-schools initiative (CISI) programme, which plans to computerise primary and secondary schools in the country.

President Obasanjo made the pledge through the Minister of Science and Technology, Professor Turner T. Isoun, at the launching of CISI N500 million appeal fund, last week in Abuja.

He said that the Federal Government has funded and encouraged the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) to empower the youth through IT skills and prepare them for global competitiveness.

He commended the efforts of the Information Technology Association of Nigeria (ITAN), organisers of the CISI, especially for the association's efforts in the development of a national IT policy for Nigeria.

Speaking earlier on behalf of the minister, the Minister of State for Science and Technology, Mrs. Pauline Tallen urged corporate organisations and individuals to contribute to the success of the scheme by adopting and computerising primary or secondary schools in Nigeria through donations of

Stories by Hassan Idris

This, the minister said, would provide ample opportunities for youths to acquire relevant skills for their survival, growth and development in the

knowledge-based, science and technology-driven world of the 21st century.

According to the minister, the actions taken to bridge the digital divide among the children and youth are the surest and quickest ways of turning the myriad of the nation's socio-

economic problems into windows of opportunities.

"ITAN has moved from the realm of merely criticising and talking to the realm of doing practical things, Professor Isoun stated, urging other professional groups to emulate the ITAN example.

US firm donates \$42,000 for Nigeria's WiderNet Project

A United States of America-based company, Learnkey Incorporated, has donated the sum of \$42,000 to Nigerian universities for the implementation of the WiderNet project under the auspices of the Iowa University.

A statement signed by Catherina Kevin said, the donation was similarly made to some other African universities recently.

According to the statement, the donation was for the provision software and connecting Nigerian Universities to the Iowa University via the Internet.

Learnkey's donation was made for software, network classes, certification of services of training in software through the WiderNet project for distribution to each partner university in Nigeria, the statement said.

These new software offer the Nigerian universities the crucial skills they need to build and maintain efficient networks in their systems.

WiderNet project will also send its experts to Nigeria to train lecturers and students in the partner universities on computer networking and the Internet as it aims to produce digital communication in developing countries, the statement stressed.

It will also teach decision-makers in Nigerian

universities how to expand the bandwidth of their websites.



George Bush

...as ITAN donates 36 computers to schools

The Information Technology Association of Nigeria (ITAN) initiator of the computer-in-schools-initiative (CISI) project has donated 36 computer systems, including peripherals to six schools located in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

The donation was announced by the President of ITAN, Mr. Chris Uwaje, at the occasion of the launching of the CISI project, last week in Abuja.

The beneficiaries of ITAN's donations were Government Junior Secondary School (GJSS) Pandagi, Abaji; Government Secondary School, Bwari, and Dobi Government Secondary School (GSS) Gwagwalada.

Others are, Abuja Centre for Handicapped Children, Kuje; Government Secondary school, Dangara, Kwali Government Secondary School, Karu, Abuja.

According to the ITAN president, the basic donations

to each school were five computer systems plus software, a dot matrix or laser printer, three power surge protectors, five sets of instructional materials in hardcopies, including three-day intensive training for selected teachers and students alike.

The requirements from each school as the minimum facilities to install the systems include, access to electricity, a secured spacious room to be designated "computer room" with electrical sockets, tables and chairs, secured location, including a letter of commitment from the principal to CISI on a proper use and security of the equipment so donated.

Mr. Uwaje disclosed that other donations were projected to be made within the six geopolitical zones of the country, including 180 secondary schools by the first half of next year, while 220 additional secondary schools in the country would be provided by the end of the year.

Mr. Uwaje urged the federal government to hasten the promulgation of the national IT policy into law in order to speed up the IT revolution in the country.

The ITAN president personally donated one million naira cash for the purchase of IT equipment, while the Vice President of ITAN, Mr. Jimson Olutuye, donated five computers.

Another donation was from the Managing Director of Arit of Africa Ltd, Engr. Mrs. K.O. Ogunsola, who donated N500,000 worth of software.

About two million naira was realised with more than 50 computers.

You and your computer

By Hassan Idris

How to save your work in a windows program

When you type and create any document in any windows program, you need to save it because it only exists in the Random Access Memory (RAM). Without saving such document the information contained might be lost if you try to exit the program or lose the power supply to your computer.

That is why it is necessary to save and store all documents or files on the computer.

To save a file, just click the 'file' menu to open it and then click 'save' command or simply press Ctrl's on the keyboard. If your computer has a toolbar, just click the 'save file'.

For you to save in a particular drive, click 'file' and the 'save as' and then click the 'down arrow' beside the drives to display the drives for you to select one.

You may click and hold the 'scroll bar arrow' on the directories to display the names of directories you want to save and then click any of your choice.

You can also save your file in another format e.g. click the 'down arrow' beside the 'save file as type' scroll and choose the format you want and then click it.

You can double click in the 'file name' dialog box to highlight any of its content or type a name for the new file not more than eight characters. No need to add any file name extension.

You have to click the 'OK' button if the application offers an automatic backup option.

Now open the 'file' menu and click save again and make sure you always save your work before closing the programs.

How to save with a new name

Start clicking the 'file' menu and then click the 'save as' command if you intend to save any new version of the file to a new drive or directory.

In the 'save as' dialog box, double click the file name text box to select a name or type a new name, less than eight characters.

How to save your files automatically

For the sake of safety, click 'tools' menu and then click the user set-up command.

Also, in the dialog box, you can click your options to make 'Auto timed savings in the file saving section.

Then, double click the number of minutes in the text box from '0' to higher number of minutes or simply type them. The 'down' and up arrow keys are easier to use.

Lastly, click the "OK" button to close the dialog box to start automatic saving.

How to print a windows program

Any time you want to print a typed document, you have to open the file you need to print. Click the 'file' command, and then click the 'print' icon.

There are other options for selecting number of copies, current document' or 'all documents to be printed. Choose and double click the mouse.

Other printing options are 'pages' i.e. ranges area, and then double click it, box the number you need the computer to start printing. Lastly, to the number of pages you want to print, type and specify the numbers of pages you need.

If you have specified all the options, then click the 'OK' button to start printing your document instantly. If your computer printer is well connected, the print manager in windows will pick the file or documents and start printing.

How to exit a window program

Click the file command of the 'windows control menu' and double click to close the application.

After clicking 'file' command, click the exit command at the button to close the file and then click exit to quit from the program.

If the file or program is minimised to an icon on the screen, then click the icon to display the file or program. Finally click the 'close' command.

You may press the 'Ctrl Esc' to display the windows task list if the file or program is not currently active, and then click the 'end task' button.

Nigeria-Re begins phased computerisation

The Nigeria Reinsurance Corporation (Nigeria-Re) has recently completed the first phase of computerisation of its operations and plans to commence other phases early next year.

The chairman of Nigeria-Re, Chief P.C. Onuoha, told *IT World* in Abuja that "it is no gain-saying that Information Technology (IT) is the driving force behind many successful business enterprises today", adding that it was also true that

businesses that fail to innovate under today's very competitive environment risk extinction.

He added that his corporation was totally committed to the goal of achieving full computerisation and IT operations in the next few years.

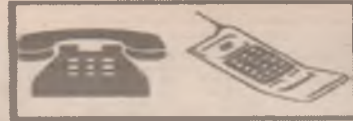
According to him, Nigeria-Re shall continuously strive to evolve new and better ways of doing business, so as to effectively reposition the corporation to meet the challenges posed by local and international competition.



WiderNet recently organised a computer and network training workshop for 38 information and communication technology (ICT) staff of 14 federal universities in Nigeria, at the National Universities Commission (NUC) headquarters, in Abuja. Picture shows Mrs. Rita O. Okechukwu, senior programmer of the NUC taking some of the participants through the networking process during the three-day workshop.



I.T. WORLD



Firm warns of new computer virus

A United States-based firm, U.S. Computer Associates International, Inc. (CA), last week assigned a medium-to-high risk ranking to "Goner", a malicious computer worm which propagates through E-mail masquerading as a Microsoft Windows screen saver.

Goner arrives as an E-mail with the subject line: "Hi" and a message body text: "How are you? When I saw this screen saver, I immediately thought about you I am in a hurry, promise you will love it!" and the



President Bush of USA

attachment: "gone.scr". Upon execution of the attachment, Goner searches for a number of security products, including anti virus and personal firewalls, running on the computer. It shuts down and erases the security applications.

Goner spreads by

sending itself to every E-mail address in the infected computer user's Microsoft Outlook address book. Goner also has the capability to spread via ICQ and IRC networks.

"Like many other virus threats, Goner uses social engineering to induce users to unknowingly activate it," said Ian Hameroff, business

manager at security solutions of CA. "Gone can be stopped in its tracks by a combination of common sense and the right tools.

The worm, a self-propagating virus, spread so quickly and widely on Tuesday, that some anti-virus vendors warned it could be the biggest outbreak since last year's "Love Letter" virus which caused an estimated 8.7 billion U.S. dollars in damage, according to Computer Economics, which tracks the economic toll of computer viruses.

China improves internet links

China's Internet links improved significantly in the first nine months of the year, according to a report recently released by the China Internet Network Information Centre.

The report, first one on the Internet band width, says that outgoing Internet links from China rose from 2,799 megabytes in January to 5,724 megabytes by the end of September.

Experts said that the



Zhu Rongji, Chinese P.M.

figure indicates the fast development of Internet infrastructure and China's increasingly close connection with the world. China Daily reported.

China Telecom, the biggest Chinese telecommunications operators, still leads its peers with about 80 per cent of China's total international exit band width at 4,850 megabytes.

The report also says that some non-profit network operators have set themselves up as commercial organizations because they are eager to use their network resources to profit from the rapid development of the Internet in China.

E-commerce to flourish exponentially - U.S. experts

E-commerce use and applications in all aspects of work and life are expected to flourish exponentially as the Internet becomes even more ubiquitous and secure throughout the developed world, U.S. experts said at the Global Tech Summit held in Washington last week.

"While 2001 has presented both economic challenges and global tragedies, long-term

confidence remains uniquely strong in the software and information technology industries," said Robert Holleyman, President and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Business Software Alliance (BSA), the organizer of the high-level gathering.

The summit, sponsored by the Fortune Magazine and Business 2.0 drew hundreds of top software and information CEOs and others, and the result of a survey of the CEOs echoed

Holleyman's remarks on e-commerce.

Highlights of the CEO survey revealed that:

- Business-to-business e-commerce will become the dominant form of business transacted online within next five years.

- Nearly all people in the developed world will be in constant connection with the Internet within 10 years.

- Within 10 years, e-commerce security will be

so great that consumers will weigh only convenience and cost when choosing between online and traditional transactions.

- Technology remains key to substantial, long-term, and worldwide economic growth.

- Software piracy remains the number one impediment to the growth of the software industry and its maximum contribution to global economic health.

Networking for a brighter business future

Telephone lines of the world buzz with millions of messages travelling along networks at near the speed of light, every second of the day and night. The frantic pace of electronic communication exploits the capabilities of one of the United Kingdom's and recent history's most influential inventions: the fibre-optic cable.

Without optical communications there would be no Internet. The UK continues to push forward the frontiers of optoelectronics, an industry which contains a wide range of products and services.

The UK is the largest fibre optics market in Europe. Annual production is estimated to be worth four billion pounds sterling which represents about half total of Europe.

The UK is home to a strong research and development and manufacturing base. Investment opportunities are readily taken up by the globe's big players in the new technology business. One of the most successful examples of recent first-round funding in the UK is Southampton Photonics.

This southern England company raised 36 million pounds sterling, most of it from investors in Silicon Valley California, to enable it design and manufacture fibre-optic components for the

By Michael Kenward

global telecommunications market.

The UK has had a strong position in optical communications since the mid-1960s when Charles Kao of STL Laboratories made the world's first optical fibres. In 1986 Professor David Payne's group at Southampton University, developed the first fibre amplifiers. These amplifiers mean that an optical signal can go from one end of the network to the other, under the oceans for example.

An optical amplifier - a piece of silica fibre doped with a special material called erbium - reinforces the signal before it fades away. This technology - known as EDFA - is an enabling system for fibre-optic transmission systems worldwide.

Southampton Photonics grew out of the research team that invented the doped fibre amplifier. Professor David Payne, the Chairman of the new company, is head of the Optoelectronics Research Centre (ORC) at the University of Southampton.

Southampton Photonics joins a thriving new industry that is meeting the rapidly growing demand for telecoms capacity by allowing operators to cram massive amounts of traffic down their existing optical networks. Want to carry 100

times as much traffic? No need to dig up the roads, just adopt a technology known as Dense-Wave Division Multiplexing (DWDM).

DWDM achieves its magic



Window of opportunity: one UK company leading the communications revolution - Kymata's clean, secure assembly and testing room in its state-of-the-art factory at Livingston, Scotland.

by carrying signals as slightly different colours (or wavelengths). At the beginning, telecoms operators were happy to be able to send four channels down a fibre. Systems suppliers already sell systems that carry 32 or 64 channels. And researchers now talk of providing hundreds of channels.

Kymata - from the Greek word for wave - has also taken up technology for making photonic components from Glasgow University and British Telecom. The company makes the optical equivalent of electronic integrated circuits, the technology that revolutionised communications and made the computer revolution possible. Similar to

Southampton Photonics, Kymata has raised money in California as well as the UK to fund its growth.

Kymata is laying down the

foundations of a business based on the technology of silica-on-silicon. Optical wave-guides, or circuits, made from doped silica - the material used in optical fibres - sit on silicon wafers. "It is basically a fibre on a chip," said Dr. Laming.

The ideal telecoms network carries its traffic as optical signals for the whole of their journey. At the moment, when they want to switch a signal from one path to another - or to separate and join streams of data - they usually have to convert messages into electronic signals and back into light again.

The United States information technology giant IBM has taken a minority

stake in Kymata as part of a strategic agreement jointly to develop components for the next generation of optical communications networks.

Under their agreement, IBM and Kymata plan to develop innovative optical chips to help networking gear drive data and information at higher speeds across optical networks. mM will license its optical chip fabrication technology SiON (siliconoxynitride) to Kymata, with the intention of delivering complex, high-performance parts at reasonable cost.

Christine King, vice-president of semiconductor manufacturing for IBM, said: "Through this collaboration with Kymata, we intend to create an unprecedented suite of versatile, high-bandwidth optical communications chips that will dramatically speed our customers' time to market and speed up existing networks."

Another UK company in the same business is Bookham Technology, based in Oxfordshire, southern England. Bookham also makes optical circuits based on silicon.

"The optical microcircuit is potentially a disruptive technology which is likely to have the same impact on the communications industry as electronic microcircuits had on the computer industry 20 years ago," said Dr Andrew Rickman, President and Chief Executive Officer of

Bookham.

Bookham may be only 11 years old but it is the grand old man of electro-optics. Early investors in the company include Intel and Cisco, the network technology company. Bookham floated on the London Stock Exchange early in 2000.

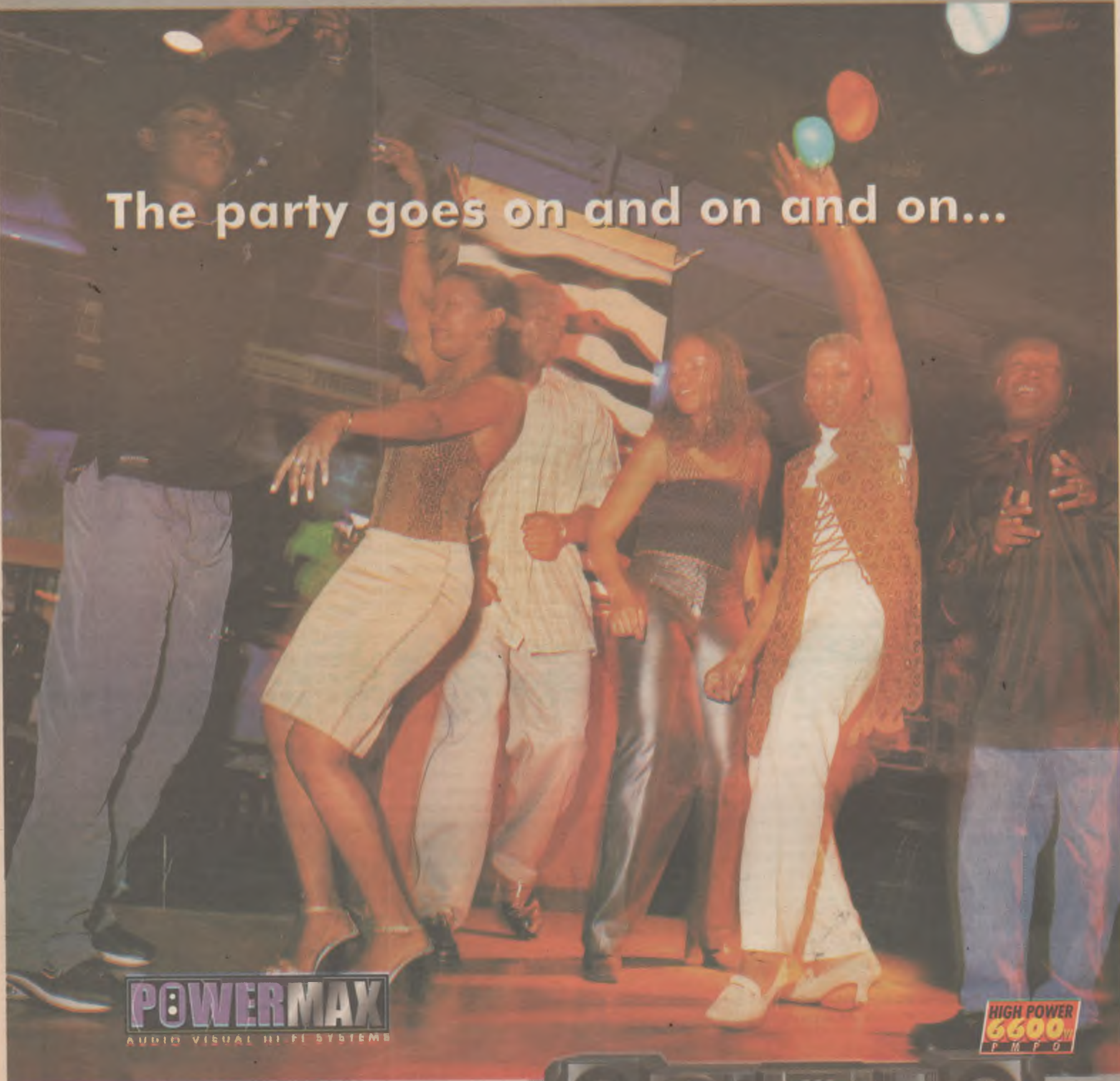
Intel, was also an early investor in another UK company that hopes to revolutionise the electronics business. Cambridge Display Technology (CDT) wants to replace semiconductors with light-emitting polymers (LEPs) in the all-important electronic display systems used for video display units.

CDT was set up in Cambridge to bring research carried out in the Cavendish Laboratory by Professor Richard Friend and his colleagues to the market. The company has a close relationship with the Japanese company Seiko-Epson. Last June, the two announced that they have developed a 2.5 square-inch (about 16 square centimetres) full-colour display using CDT's LEP technology. Just as important as the display is that the innovative manufacturing technique involved uses ink-jet printing technology. This approach is not only less demanding than the high-tech production lines used to make other display systems, it also opens up the possibility of making displays whose dimensions are limited only by the size of the wafers available as a backing material.

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BUK/PGS/24

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION INTO POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

2001/2002 SESSION

Applications are invited from qualified candidates for admission into the following courses for the 2001/2002 academic session.

1. FACULTY OF ARTS AND ISLAMIC STUDIES

1.1 *M.A./Ph.D* in the following: Arabic (Language and Literature), English (Language and Modern African Literature), Hausa (Language, literature & Culture), History and Islamic Studies.

1.2 *M.A. Mass Communication*

1.3 *Masters in Development Studies (M.D.S.) In the Department of History:* The programme will be run on Part-time basis for a minimum of 24 months comprising course-work and project. Candidates for admission shall satisfy any of the following requirements: - A good honours degree with at least Second Class Lower; A Postgraduate Diploma in Development Studies with classification not below MERIT; Any qualification deemed by Senate to be equivalent to any of the above.

1.4 *Postgraduate Diploma in the Teaching of English as a Second Language (PGDTESL): Admission Requirements:* Third Class Degree in English or Combined Honours. DURATION: One Calendar Year on Full-time basis.

1.5 *Postgraduate Diploma in Development Studies (PGDDS) in the Department of History: Admission Requirements:* Degree holders with at least Third Class from any recognised University; HND holders with classification not below Lower Credit with a minimum of 3 years working experience and Holders of any other equivalent qualifications from a recognised Institution of higher learning.

2. FACULTY OF EDUCATION

2.1 *M.Ed/Ph.D in Education with specialization in any one of the following:*

Guidance & Counselling; Educational Psychology; Philosophy of Education; Curriculum and Instruction; Special Education; Administration and Planning.

2.2 *Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE). Admission Requirement:* B.A. or B.Sc degree with a minimum of 3rd Class or any other qualification which together with relevant experience is deemed by the Faculty Board of Education and the Senate to be equivalent to the above.

2.3 *M.L.S./Ph.D in Library Science with specialization in any one of the following:* Library Administration; Technical Services; Information Science; Library Resources and Bibliography; Communication Science.

3. FACULTY OF SCIENCE

3.1 *M.Sc (Mathematics):* The programme will be run on full-time basis for a duration of 24 months comprising course-work and dissertation. Candidates for admission shall possess any of the following qualifications: A First Class or Second Class degree in Mathematics; Any qualification deemed by Senate to be equivalent to above.

3.2 *M.Sc /Ph.D Chemistry, with specialization in:* Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry; Physical Chemistry; Analytical Chemistry; Colour Polymer Chemistry.

3.3 *Postgraduate Diploma in Chemistry (PGDC)* run for a minimum period of one year. Admission Requirement: A 3rd Class Degree in Chemistry, or HND Upper Credit or equivalent qualifications in relevant areas.

3.4 *M.Sc/Ph.D in Biological Sciences with specialisation in:* Hydrobiology; Fisheries; Parasitology; Plant Physiology; Phycology; Genetics; Plant Ecology; Entomology; Plant Taxonomy; Applied Zoology

3.5 *M.Sc in Physics with specialization in:* Atomic Physics; Nuclear Structure Physics; Solid-State Physics; Optics; Electronics.

3.6 *Postgraduate Diploma in Industrial Physics (PGDIP):* The programme will be run on full-time basis for a duration of 12 months comprising course-work and project. Candidates for the admission shall possess any of the following qualifications: A minimum of Third Class degree in Physics; Physics Education, Electrical/Electronic Engineering, and Mathematics. A minimum of Lower Credit HND in Physics, Electronics Telecommunication or any other qualification deemed by Senate to be equivalent to the above.

4. FACULTY OF SOCIAL AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES:

4.1 *M.Sc/Ph.D in Economics with specialization in any one of the following:* Development Studies; Economic Planning; Industrial Economics; Public Finance/Taxation; Agricultural Economics; Banking and Finance, Environmental Studies; Energy Studies; Political Economy, Quantitative Techniques Operational Research.

Admission Requirement for M.Sc Economics:

A good Second Class Degree in Economics, Accounting, Business Administration, or any other related discipline from BUK or any other recognised Institution with at least 2 years Post-qualification experience.

Admission Requirement for Ph.D Economics:

I. Candidates must hold a Master's degree in Economics or any other qualification from the BUK or any other recognised University deemed equivalent by the Department.

Candidates other than those holding a Master's Degree in Economics or its equivalent from the BUK, shall provide official transcript of both their undergraduate and graduates degrees.

II. Candidates with any other qualifications deemed equivalent may be required to take additional undergraduate and/or Postgraduate Courses deemed relevant by the Departments. Such candidate shall be confirmed subject to the successful completion of the required additional course(s).

III. In addition, candidates seeking admission for the M.Sc and Ph.D Economics above must submit direct to the Head of Department at the time of application, a brief description of their intended programme of research. No application will be considered without the description.

4.2 *M.Sc/Ph.D in Geography with specialisation in:* Land Administration, or Land Development

4.3 *M.Sc/Ph.D in Political Science with specialisation in:* Political Economy; Political Theory; International relation; Public Administration.

4.4 *M.Sc/Ph.D in Sociology: Admission Requirements:* Master's Degree programme: A first Class or good Second class degree in relevant discipline from the Bayero University, Kano or any recognised Institution.

Ph.D Programme: Only candidates who possess a good Bachelor's Degree and a good Master's Degree in the relevant subject will be considered.

4.5 *Masters of Business Administration (MBA) Full-time and Part-time:*

Admission Requirements:

I. A good Second Class degree in Accounting, Business Administration, Economics or any other related discipline from Bayero University, Kano or any other recognised Institution with at least 2 years post qualification experience.

II. An HND or a first Degree plus a professional qualification in related discipline i.e.

ACCA, ICAN, AIB, ACMA, with at least 1 year post qualification experience.

III. An HND, a first degree or any other recognised professional qualification i.e. ACA, ACCA, AIB, plus a Postgraduate Diploma in Management or Banking and Finance with a minimum of Credit classification from Bayero University or any other recognised Institution.

IV. The same as (iii) above with Merit classification in Postgraduate Diploma in Management with at least one year Post qualification experience.

4.6 *Master's in Banking and Finance (MBF) Full-time and Part-time.*

Admission Requirement:

I. A first Class or good Second Class degree in Economics, Banking and Finance, Accounting or Business Administration.

II. A first or good Second Class honours degree in other related disciplines with at least 2 years post qualification relevant experience in the Banking or Financial Institution.

III. A professional qualification in related field i.e. ACCA, HND or ACA plus a Postgraduate Diploma in Banking and Finance with a minimum of credit classification from Bayero University or any other recognised Institution.

IV. The same as (iii) above with Merit classification in Postgraduate Diploma in Banking and Finance with at least one year post qualification experience.

4.7 *Postgraduate Diploma in Management (PGDM)*

Admission Requirement:

I. A Second Class degree in any discipline other than Accounting, Business Administration, Finance, Marketing and Personnel Management from Bayero University, Kano or any other recognised Institution with at least 2 years post qualification experience.

II. A first degree with a classification below Second Class in Accounting, Business Administration, Economics from Bayero University, Kano or any other recognised Institution with at least 2 years post qualification experience.

III. HND with a classification of at least Credit in Accounting, Business Administration, and any related field with at least 2 years post qualification experience.

IV. HND or any other recognised qualification with classification of at least an Upper Credit in any discipline other than the disciplines in (iii) above with at least 2 years post qualification experience.

V. A professional qualification in related field i.e. ACA, ACCA, ACMA, AIB.

a) All candidates as stated above must have at least a PASS in GCE Ordinary Level Mathematics.

b) The Department reserves the right to administer a test to the prospective candidates before final acceptance.

c) An equivalent of HND, provided that the candidate must have obtained at least 4 O'level Credits.

4.8 *Postgraduate Diploma in Banking & Finance (PGDBF)*

Admission Requirements:

I. A first degree with a classification not below 3rd Class in Economics, Accounting,

SPORTS

More friendlies for Eagles - Aku

SPORT Minister, Ishaya Mark Aku, has assured that the Super Eagles would play enough international friendlies before the mundial proper rolls-off the ground on May 31.

The minister said that plans are afloat to organise sufficient friendlies for the Eagles to ensure that the team is in top gear and shape for

By Patrick Andrew

the Korea/Japan World Cup 2002.

Aku allayed fears on friendly matches, noting that the usual haphazard arrangements would no longer be but that the Sports Ministry would ensure thorough preparations, in all facets before the World Cup commences.

The minister advised chief coach, Amodu Shuaibu, to dispense with the services of old brigades in the squad and employ the talent of more youthful, determined and success-hungry professionals scattered all over the world to prosecute the World Cup campaigns.

"There are more than 1,200 foreign-based professionals plying their trades in various countries of the world. I think Amodu should scout for them and use them in the World Cup," he said.

"If there is anything the team will lack, it will definitely not be international friendlies," Aku said, adding that the previous fire brigade approach to preparations must be discarded.

The minister said all hands must be on deck to ensure that the Eagles are not only well blended but prepared for the World Cup campaigns.



Mike Tyson had been due to fight Ray Mercer in January 19.

McEnroe storms out

John McEnroe missed out on what would have been his fifth Honda Challenge final - and turned back the years by berating officials.

The American was outplayed by the French Davis Cup captain, Guy Forget, who produced well over 20 aces on the way to his 6-4 7-6 semi-final victory.

McEnroe complained about line calls and after throwing himself at one too many aces, required on-court treatment from the trainer.

Forget dictated much of the 102 minutes of play and saved four set-points in an epic second set tie-break which he eventually won 20-18.

McEnroe said: "I felt like I was in slow motion. I mean this Forget serves rockets. He's served huge for a long time."

"He looks fitter than he's ever looked, he doesn't have an ounce of fat on him, I don't know what the hell he has been doing but I'd like to find out."

McEnroe expressed disappointment at missing the final.

"I expected to be there this year, I knew it wasn't going to be easy and I was a shot or two away from being there."

"It's frustrating but that's tennis, that's why it's a great game."

Forget explained that McEnroe had brought out the best in his game.

"John's so competitive and he takes you to a level you didn't think you could get to, only when you play John do you get that sensation."

"I know I couldn't complain because it suits my game but the court is too fast, it's really smooth and the ball just skids off."

Forget arrived in London jet-lagged from two days of celebrating France's Davis Cup victory over Australia.

He added: "I would have needed a broken leg not to come here, it's an honour to be part of this whole atmosphere, the party which is tennis."

Eriksson rejects Man Utd

England coach, Sven Goran-Eriksson, ruled himself out yesterday as the successor to Manchester United Manager, Alex Ferguson, when the Scotsman retires at the end of the session.

"I have a long contract with England and I am happy about that," Eriksson told television interviewer, David Frost, on the "Frost on Sunday" show.

"It's always an honour to be noticed with such a big

club but I have always said, first of all, I have never talked to Manchester United about it and I never heard anything about it."

English champions United are currently languishing in ninth place in the table after losing six premier league games this season, the most recent being Saturday's 1-0 defeat at home to West Ham United.

Eriksson also gave full backing to his captain, David Beckham, favour to win the

BBC Sports Personality of the Year Award on Sunday.

Beckham, whose form has been indifferent in recent weeks, was left out of Manchester United's starting line-up on Saturday for the second successive game.

"He's going to be the captain," Eriksson confirmed. "There is absolutely no reason to change that."

"The season is very long. I think it's important for the modern footballer that at some point you have to rest."

Eriksson said he believed England could qualify to the second round of next year's World Cup finals in Japan and South Korea despite being drawn in the toughest group with tournament favourites Argentina, his home country Sweden and Nigeria.

"If we can play football as we did many times during this year, I think we can beat Sweden. I think we can beat Argentina," Eriksson said. "Why not?"

Business Administration and Finance, or any discipline from any recognised University.
II. HND with a classification of at least Lower Credit in Accounting, Business Administration or any related field with at least 2 years post qualification experience.

III. A Professional qualification in related field such as ACA, ACCA, AIB.
IV. All candidates for admission must have at least four Credits in WAEC/GCE O'Level/SSCE, including English, and at least a PASS in Mathematics or their equivalent and the Department reserves the right to administer an entrance examination to prospective candidates before final acceptance.

4.9 Masters in Public Policy and Administration (MPPA)

Admission Requirements:

I. A good Second Class degree in relevant discipline,
II. Holders of Degree or HND plus PGDPPA (Merit) of Bayero University, Kano or any recognised University.

4.10 Postgraduate Diploma in Public Policy and Administration (PGDPPA)

Admission Requirement:

I. Degree holders with at least Third Class from any recognised University,
II. HND holders with a Minimum of Lower Credit.

4.11 Postgraduate Diploma in Land Administration (PGDLA)

4.12 Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Management (PGDEM)

4.13 Postgraduate Diploma in Soil Evaluation (PGDSE)

a) The programmes are designed for those with sufficient background in Environmental Sciences, Earth Sciences, Economics, Agriculture etc. Those seeking admission into the programmes should possess at least a third class bachelor degree from Bayero University, Kano or any other recognised University. Holders of at least a Credit Level at HND or its equivalent in relevant areas.

5. FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY

Admission Requirements:

5.1 M.ENG (ENERGY STUDIES)

A good honours degree or equivalent in Mechanical Engineering from Bayero University, Kano or any other recognised Institution.

5.2 M.ENG (ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING)

A good degree or equivalent in Electrical or Electronic Engineering from Bayero University, Kano or any other recognised Institution.

5.3 PH.D (ENERGY STUDIES)

A Master Degree or Equivalent in Mechanical Engineering.

5.4 PH.D (ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING)

A Masters Degree or Equivalent in Electronic or Electrical Engineering.

5.5 M.ENG (CIVIL ENGINEERING) with specialisation in: Water Resources and Environmental Engineering; Structural Engineering; Geotechnical Engineering; Highway and Transportation Engineering; Construction Management and Technology.

Admission Requirement:

A good Second Class degree in Civil Engineering or related discipline from Bayero University, Kano or its equivalent.

5.6 Postgraduate Diploma in Civil Engineering (PGDCE)

This programme will be run on full time basis for a duration of 12 months comprising course work and project. Candidate for admission shall possess any of the following qualifications:

- I. Third Class degree in Civil Engineering or related disciplines such as Building, Geology, Architecture, Survey, Environmental Science etc.
- II. HND Lower Credit in Civil Engineering or related disciplines such as Agricultural Engineering, Water Resources/Irrigation Engineering with at least two years post qualification experience.
- III. Any other qualification deemed by Senate to be equivalent to the above.

5.7 Postgraduate Diploma in Electrical Engineering (PGDEE)

The programme will be run on full-time basis for a duration of 12 months comprising course work and project. Candidates for admission shall possess any of the following qualifications: Third Class degree in Electrical Engineering, Physics, Technical Education or Environmental Design; HND Lower Credit in Electrical Engineering or related disciplines.

5.8 Postgraduate Diploma in Mechanical Engineering (PGDME)

The programme will be run on full-time or part-time basis. Candidates for admission shall possess any of the following qualification: Third Class degree in Mechanical Engineering or its equivalent; HND Mechanical Engineering with a minimum of Upper Credit or its equivalent.

6. METHOD OF APPLICATION:

a) An application form can be paid for and collected from major Branches of any of the following Banks at the cost of =N=3, 150.00.

- I. African International Bank
- II. Access Bank
- III. Bank of the North Limited
- IV. Standard Trust Bank.

b) Completed application forms should be accompanied by a self addressed envelope measuring 22.5CM (9" X 4" carrying a =N=20.00 stamp to be used for acknowledging the receipt of the application forms and must be returned to:-

**The Secretary,
Postgraduate School, Bayero University,
Private Mail Bag 3011, Kano- Nigeria.
Not later than 14th February, 2001**

**MOHAMMED SANI AMINU,
SECRETARY,
POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL.**



Al Ahly celebrates draw against Sundown

CAF Champions League

Al Ahly have taken a giant step towards winning the African Champions League with a 1-1 draw against Sundowns in the first leg of the final in Pretoria.

The Egyptians were jubilant at the end of an entertaining game.

But Hossam El Badry, Al Ahly's assistant coach, warned his side not to be over-confident.

"Obviously I am very happy with the result because we've achieved what we came to South Africa for, which was to get a draw. But Sundowns are a good side and we must be careful not to be complacent in the second leg", said El Badry.

"Our players followed our tactical plan to perfection - they were very disciplined. We really troubled Sundowns with our counter-attacks".

Sundowns coach, Ted Dumitru, was disappointed with his players, especially the forwards.

"Our strikers showed their immaturity, especially when they were up against the best organised defence on the continent.

"We had to play with three players who weren't fully fit and it showed. But there's still ninety minutes to play in Cairo and we are still hopeful of pulling something out of the bag," said Dumitru.

Sundowns started off the better side and could have taken the lead as early as the 16th minute.

But Carlo Scott's toe-poke hit the Ahly upright with the keeper well beaten.

Ten minutes later, Gift Kampamba, Sundowns' Zambian international midfielder gave his side the lead.

He went on a brilliant run before unleashing a left-footed shot from outside the box.

The goal spurred Al Ahly into action and Sundowns had to survive some anxious moments before the half-time whistle.

The home side re-asserted themselves in the opening minutes of the second half but failed to make it count.

Ahly were able to get into some dangerous positions and the impressive Abdel Hafiz punished the home side.

He headed in a cross from the left in the 58th minute for a goal that was richly deserved.

The Egyptians then proceeded to frustrate Sundowns by retaining possession for long spells.

The South Africans will rue the late miss by substitute Lucky Qaba just two minutes to go.

With the Ahly goal at his mercy, he ballooned his shot over the bar from only five metres out.

The Egyptians must now fancy their chances on home territory in the second leg in two weeks time.



Penn State's Brandon Watkins (10) shoots over Pittsburgh's Brandin Knight, right, in the first half in Pittsburgh on Saturday.

Sudan suspended, Kenya may follow suit

sometimes political ambitions

Sudan has been suspended from the Council of East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) after failing to send a team to the latest regional competition in Rwanda.

The decision to suspend Sudan was announced by an upset CECAFA chairman, Farah Addo, after the council's general assembly in Kigali on Friday.

"Since 1999, Sudan has not participated in any of our regional competitions", said Addo.

"They have not paid their membership for the last three years and they have been absent from all our meetings".

Sudan, which had a good spell of results in World Cup qualifying, is the only CECAFA country absent from the 2001 Challenge Cup which kicked off on Saturday afternoon.

Addo, who is also the vice-president of the Confederation of African Football, told BBC Sport Online, "Some football officials in our region are really not serious, they are not here for the sport but for their own personal

Kenya is also facing suspension from the regional football body.

"The Kenyans are being given until January 7 to pay fees they owe to referees and officials after organising the Ceca club competition earlier this year", he said.

The Kenyan FA is currently facing sanctions from the Ministry of Sport for mismanagement.

Several FA officials have already been suspended by a committee investigating the state of its finances.

"If they don't have the will to be disciplined and professional as we try to rebuild football in East Africa, they can stay at home", Mr Addo ended.



Isah Hayatou

Woods plots end of year victory

Tiger Woods is determined to add one more win to his list of honours before completing

his playing schedule for 2001.

The American world number one ends his itinerary when he hosts the Williams World Challenge at Sherwood Country Club.

And he would dearly love to improve on his previous 10th and second-place finishes in the California event.

"It would be nice to end the year with another victory," he said on his official website.

"But, no matter what happens, I feel good about what I accomplished this year.

"Five PGA Tour wins including the Masters, the money title and Vardon Trophy, PGA Player of the Year and, of course, winning four straight major championships.

"In some ways, the latter still hasn't sunk in. I guess it's going to take a little while to truly understand and appreciate."

Woods came into 2001 as defending champion in the British Open, the US Open and the USPGA Championship.

Despite a winless run until mid-March, he ended his victory drought in style as he clinched back-to-back titles at the Bay Hill Invitational and the Players' Championship.

The following week, the 25-year-old made golfing history when he sank a 15-foot birdie putt on Augusta's 18th green to seal the US Masters and become the first player to hold all four majors at once.

By the time the 2001 PGA Tour ended with the Tour Championship in Houston in early November, Woods had won five times in 19 events, with a further four top-five finishes.

He headed the final money list with earnings of \$5.6m - more than \$1m ahead of second-placed Phil Mickelson, and led the stroke averages with an impressive 68.81.

But he is already setting higher targets for 2002.

"As I've said before, my goal every year is to improve and I think I accomplished that in 2001.

Hewitt gets new coach

World number one, Lleyton Hewitt, will be coached by former Australia Davis Cup player Jason Stoltenberg from January.

Hewitt has risen to the top of the rankings under the guidance of Darren Cahill over the last three years.

But Cahill told Hewitt that he would not be looking for an extension to his contract, which expires at the end of this year.

"Obviously, it has been a very rewarding three years for Lleyton and myself," said Cahill. "But I am confident with Jason's support, Lleyton will not skip a beat."

Hewitt took the US Open and Masters Cup titles in the last three months, as well as claiming the top ranking.

"Darren was one of the few people who really believed in me early on and I am extremely grateful for all of his guidance these past few years," said Hewitt.

"However, Jason will provide me with invaluable experience and dedication moving forward which I am quite enthusiastic about."

Stoltenberg, a former Wimbledon semi-finalist, will travel with Hewitt throughout the year, starting with the build-up to next month's Australian Open.

"Lleyton and I will be together in Adelaide immediately after Christmas to begin preparations for the Hopman Cup in Perth and the rest of the Australian summer season," said Stoltenberg.

"Darren has done a wonderful job with him but I look forward to helping Lleyton evolve his game further."

Tyson changes gear, faces Lewis

Tyson is set to fight Ray Mercer on January 19 but world heavyweight champion, Lewis is arguing that Tyson be removed from the mandatory challenger's position if he does fight. But Lennox Lewis is "delighted" at Mike Tyson's decision not to fight Ray Mercer, his trainer Emmanuel Steward revealed.

Tyson was due to meet Mercer ahead of a clash with Lewis in April.

But Lewis was concerned that, if he lost, Tyson would not be allowed to fight him for his world heavyweight titles.

Desperate to prove himself against the former undisputed world champion, Lewis sued in the US District Court to have Tyson drop the Mercer fight.

Three days later Mercer has been told their bout is off - and now nothing stands between Lewis and a clash his mentor is convinced he will win.

"It'll be on April 6 and Lennox is very delighted," Steward told BBC Radio 5 Live.

"He was so frustrated because he did everything he thought was asked of him to make sure he could face Mike Tyson.

"Lennox is very happy that this fight is taking place - it's the only fight in boxing that the world wants to see and is waiting to see.

"He hasn't had a chance to fight with Mike Tyson and Riddick Bowe because neither were prepared to fight him - but now Mike realised the public were only interested in Lennox Lewis.

"There remained a chance that if Tyson had lost against Mercer he wouldn't have the chance to fight for the title."

Steward also hinted that Lewis may consider retirement if he beats Tyson.

"I feel personally that Lennox Lewis will do that, knock out Mike Tyson and he will have done everything he set out to do and more.

"He's going to have to be up there when they start considering the best heavyweights of all time."

Lewis had stated in his original suit that it would "be impossible successfully to promote a timely championship bout that will

maximise revenues" if fought on January 19.

Tyson originally protested against Lewis' intervention, stating: "Lennox makes his own rules only when they suit him."

Last night, however, 'Iron Mike' had changed his tune.

"This is a business and I'm sure Ray understands why I need to take Lennox out now," Tyson said.

"Lennox made me an offer that I could not refuse and it is time to give the people what they want."



Toluca's team midfielder Antonio Torrez (L) jumps for the ball over Pachuca team striker, Andres Chitiva, from Colombia during the first half of their semi-final Winter 2001 championship match in Nemesio Diaz stadium in Toluca, Mexico on Saturday.



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EDITORIAL

Saminu Turaki: Case of executive irresponsibility

In one of his sojourns abroad in what is clearly an elusive search for foreign investors, Jigawa State governor, Saminu Turaki, is reported to have stayed away from his domain for 48 consecutive days. As of this moment, the travelling governor is actually out of the country.

In fact, since coming to power over two years ago, Governor Turaki has hardly stayed in Jigawa for three consecutive weeks. He appears to prefer to run his state from the comfort of foreign cities. For a young and grossly undeveloped state like Jigawa, Turaki's constant sojourn abroad is nothing but a clear case of executive irresponsibility.

In a system such as ours where enormous powers are vested in the chief executive, Turaki's long absences mean that his state is being undergoverned. This conclusion is inescapable when considered against the background that before his deputy eventually resigned some two weeks ago, the two never had any good working relationship and the governor was not therefore delegating any responsibilities to his number two.

We hear that with a deputy who was made non-functional, whenever Governor Turaki was bitten by the travelling bug and he jetted out, the reins of government usually fell on a coterie of loyal aides who directed the affairs of the state based on e-mail communication between the governor and those assistants.

It is said that Governor Turaki is a computer whiz kid. Being one, we are certain that he will be the first to admit that despite the magic of the digital age whereby several persons who are thousands of kilometres apart can be brought to a "virtual" contact, e-governance cannot be an effective way of administering a state.

The people of Jigawa certainly did not bargain for an absentee chief executive. They want a helmsman who will be very much around to listen to their fears, anxieties, hopes and aspirations. They want a leader who will pay full attention to providing the basic things of life like electricity, water and roads.

Policies, programmes, projects and directives can be dictated to aides from whatever corner of the globe, but a majority of followers can also get psychological comfort from the mere fact that their leader is around and in charge in flesh and blood for them to reach if the need arises.

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MONDAY COLUMN

Where is the real Adamu Ciroma?

By Sam Nda-Isaiah

People like me who have watched with keen interest, some times with admiration, the political and technocratic ascension of Malam Adamu Ciroma must be wondering what has now gone wrong. Throughout my life I have always had this statesman somewhere in my subconscious as an exemplar of public office. Someone who can be entrusted with the public storehouse and will watch over it with the vigilance of a new mother.

I remember Malam Adamu Ciroma very well from his days in the *New Nigerian*. I should, because I was bred almost exclusively from the prosperity of the *New Nigerian*. My consciousness as a growing child was formed by the images and semiotics of the *New Nigerian* of which Malam Adamu Ciroma was a defining part. I remember then, how he, always simple and acerbic was able to separate personal relationships from his duties and responsibilities at the newspaper. I clearly recollect how in those days I was eager at all times to know and register his views on national issues because no matter the circumstance, he was sure to offer an unbiased and unvarnished opinion. And in most cases, he would walk his talk.

He was the first indigenous editor of the very influential newspaper. It would not be out of place to say that he was responsible either directly or indirectly for the power and awe that the *New Nigerian* came to be associated with. The paper's editorials and *Candido* columns directed the pulse of the nation at the time. I remember vividly an editorial comment carried by the paper when he was the managing director. The title was "Is this government going mad?" It was during the Yakubu Gowon regime and Malam Mamman Daura was the editor. The comment was an affront to Gowon's government that seemed to have lost its mooring and was merely being aided by the wind. It didn't matter that Gowon was his friend and schoolmate. The editorial was so critical of the regime that Malam Mamman, the editor, was arrested, at a time when arrests and detentions of journalists were a rarity. Though the editor didn't spend time in detention (certainly not the type we see these days including in Obasanjo's democracy), that incident marked the parting of ways of Gowon and Ciroma. He resigned a few months later without even informing the Head of State. When Gowon heard that his friend had resigned and probably eager to mend fences, he offered him the post of Executive Secretary of the then emerging National Universities Commission (NUC). He rejected it flatly and vowed never to serve under Gowon's administration again (imagine that happening today). Malam Adamu Ciroma was a foremost member of the literati and the commentariat and was what the French would call *Comme il faut* - as it should be.

Predictably, Gowon's government fell not long after this. The breezy and fiery Murtala Mohammed assumed power and took the nation by storm. Adamu Ciroma was most improbably appointed the governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). Some people were alarmed that a journalist and technocrat, though a good one, with a degree in history and no experience in the esoteric world of high finance, would be appointed to head an abstruse institution like the CBN. Never mind that he had been on the board of directors of the apex bank for some time. That was a titular political appointment. But to the amazement and admiration of even his fiercest detractors, Malam Adamu managed the CBN very well. After barely two years at the bank he resigned to participate in the politics of the Second Republic. It is the quintessential Adamu Ciroma that would not remain in office and play politics covertly as some civil servants did then and even today. At that time, some serious people who meant well for the nation had pencilled him down to lead the country, even at that age. He joined the NPN with others from all over the country, after distinguishing himself at the Constituent Assembly. The NPN was the biggest and the most national party then, though like the PDP of today, it was also peopled by several crooks that had stymied the nation and prevented its light from shining despite the great potentials. In the NPN, he contested with five others for the presidential ticket but lost to Alhaji Shehu Shagari who eventually emerged the party's flag-bearer.

General T. Y. Danjuma, a Nigerian ultra-elite and leading member of the ruling class since 1966 known for his brutal forthrightness no matter whose ox is gored, has said, in an interview with *NewsWatch* in 1992, that he had preferred Adamu Ciroma to Shehu Shagari. He further asserted that he still had not forgiven Adamu Ciroma for stepping down for Shehu Shagari at the crucial moment because he believed that if he (Ciroma) had hung on in the primaries to the end, some other forces would have worked to favour his emergence as the flag-bearer and the nation would have been saved the misfortune that followed.

The NPN won the election, of course, not because it rigged the elections as its opponent, the UPN would have us believe, but because it had the best national spread. Eventually what the NPN added to the nation was to contribute in no small measure to its underdevelopment. To be sure, the opponents of the NPN who were on "the other side" were no better in the respective states they held court. Those in opposition found contrived accommodation in the "progressive camp", a fluid amalgam of the UPN, GNPP, NPP and PRP and indeed every politician outside the power

loop. Their alliance was formed only and for the sole purpose of keeping hate alive against the ruling NPN. But when it came to corruption and pillaging the nation's economy, all of them (well, almost all) irrespective of party affiliation, wore the same jersey.

We knew this later when the Second Republic democracy was overthrown and the military tribunals were set up to investigate the public office holders started exposing all of them. But in all these, Malam Adamu together with a few like Audu Ogbe, Maitama Sule, Balarabe Musa etc. came out unscathed and unblemished. It is also on record that he had the clairvoyance to admonish Alhaji Shehu Shagari of the coming disaster to the nation's fledgling democracy then if the corruption and excesses of the government were not checked. He even threatened to resign if something drastic was not done to stem the drift. Of course, nothing was done and what always happens when politicians overreach themselves happened and we lost our hard-earned democracy. The military intervened to the warm and ecstatic welcome of Nigerians.

Adamu Ciroma was not only a Nigerian star; he was a role model for the hopeless youths of the country. He regarded public office as public trust and good governance was his signature cause. I remember very clearly during IBB's inconclusive transition when presidential aspirants were so many that they went for three for a kobo. Despite this, Adamu Ciroma stood out in his NRC. I did not support him then, but he was one candidate I took seriously. My heart was firmly with Professor Jerry Gana another aspirant in the SDP because I wanted some freshness for the nation and Jerry Gana seemed to represent that aspiration. I remember very well the stout opposition I had to contend with as a result of this position from my very close friends and contemporaries including my own father who had nothing against my almost intolerant support for Jerry Gana, but who nonetheless insisted that Adamu Ciroma was the best candidate for the nation. Events and time were later to prove my friends and I wrong on all counts.

It was when Sani Abacha took over that the true colour of our politicians as "democrats of convenience" started to emerge. And very, very sadly, our own Adamu Ciroma popped up as one of them. I was shocked and heartbroken when Adamu Ciroma accepted to serve under Abacha. It just showed at once that all his trenchant opposition to the IBB administration was because he was not "invited to come and eat". I cannot be sure whether he had always been like that or the Nigerian situation and *realpolitik* forced him to capitulation. But no matter how he will want to explain it away, he and a host of other otherwise serious public officers have emerged as fair-weather democrats who don't believe in anything and are only interested in wherever the next government is coming from.

Since then, his profile seems to have been on the decline. This is depressing for some of us. One cannot imagine Malam Adamu Ciroma trying to defend the current rudderless economic order of the nation as Minister of Finance, a portfolio he had held 18 years ago when some of us were still in university. It is sad watching our own Adamu Ciroma being tossed around at the National Assembly by small boys and girls like a schoolboy who does not do his homework and assignments diligently. I still cannot get over the idea of an Adamu Ciroma going to the National Assembly with 25 aides to defend what we all knew to be indefensible when asked why the 2001 budget was shabbily implemented. The real Malam Adamu Ciroma we know would not be part of this travesty of government and a joke of a democracy. He would have resigned a long time ago, the same way he did under Gowon or threatened to do under Shagari. I am still brooding upon the fact that under Malam Adamu's superintendence as Minister of Finance, there will be such a flagrant abuse of the Appropriation Act. Or that funds will be removed at source to purchase jeeps for local governments without their consent (ALGON), and so many other acts repugnant to good governance. Much less, the continued and continuing subversion of civilised democratic tenets as can be gleaned from the two PDP conventions held since the commencement of this republic and the fraud to democracy by the signing and passing into law of the Electoral Act which is like signing the death warrant for our hard-earned democracy. One wonders what he and his compatriots like Sunday Awoniyi who still stands on a firm wicket, discuss when they meet. He looks to me like someone who has been caught betwixt and between. But maybe like many of our statesmen, he has been overrated and overestimated.

Nda-Isaiah is the chairman of *NigeriaUnlimited.com* and member of *Daily Trust* editorial board. All responses to sam@nigeriaunlimited.com.