



THE AFENMAI

TRUTH AND UNITY

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FORTY NAIRA

INSIDE POLITICS

OBOZUWA, WHY, I WANT TO BE GOVERNOR



AFENMAI WOMAN

SEDENU, THE WOMAN WHO SAW TOMORROW



NEWSMAKER

AN ENCOUNTER WITH ALHAJI YARO LECKY



INTERVIEW

IZOBO, MY ORDEAL AFTER DISQUALIFICATION

SPECIAL REPORT

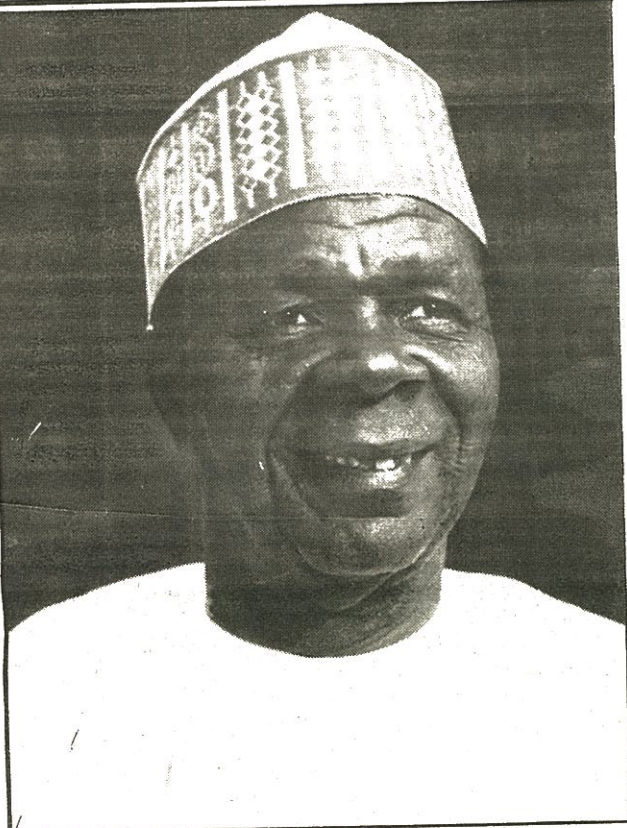
Teachers in Etsako Schools Indicted for Child Labour

By Inuwanu Columbus

A passionate plea to Edo State government has been made by students and parents in primary and secondary schools in Etsako over allegation levelled against teachers in Etsako East, Central and West local government council area for poor performance in academic activities as a result of child labour.

An investigation carried out by The Afenmai revealed that factors ranging from excessive farming, child labour and lack of total commitment to academic teachings on the part of the teachers contributed to this lapses.

Mostly affected of this anomaly is Oshiozekhai Primary School, L.A. Primary School and South-Ibie Secondary School in Etsako West local government. See Page 2 for Teachers



*Alhaji Aziz Garuba

EDO GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION

Nimetulahi, Obozuwa and Braimoh, on Why Edo North Should be given the mandate

*as Dan Orbih flags off Campaign

By Inuwanu Columbus, Zakawanu Braimoh and David Iroabuchi Kelvin Ebhonyaye

Three gubernatorial aspirants in Edo State under the United Nigeria Congress Party (UNCP), Dr. Augustine Obozuwa, Alhaji Yisa Braimoh and Alhaji Nimetulahi Momodu with a one time Chairman of Owan East local government.

Chief George Izobo, have endorsed the need for a power shift to Edo North.

In an exclusive interview with The Afenmai in Afuze.

headquarters of Owan East L.G. Chief George Izobo, remarked that, "The hope of Edo North people is in their hands, adding See Page 2 for Nimetulahi

THE AFENMAI

who
is
who

See Page 6 for Details

Why Aziz-Garuba and Five Others were Conferred titles in Auchi

*May be presented as Gubernatorial aspirant

*ABC Momoh, Yaro Lecky, Abuda Momoh, Igiekumeh and Delta Ikhara as recipient

By David Iroabuchi Vera Osigbeme Christiana Aimofumen

in Surulere, Lagos as "Dania" and Prince Delta Ikhara, a Businessman

Aidonogie Accuses

Detractors of Misinformation

Over alleged location in Mecca

It was an agony of tears and joy as the entire South-Ibie community in Etsako West local government converge at the palace of the clan head, HRM. Alhaji Inusa Umoru, Aidonogie of South-Ibie to celebrate his

based in the United States of America with the title of "Seriki Samali"

Others to be turban are Alhaji Abuda Momoh, a See Page 2 for Aziz

By Zakawanu Braimoh

arrival from Saudi Arabia. Earlier in the month, there were discordant tunes circulating in the entire Afenmai, Benin including Lagos over the re- See Aidonogie on Page 2

AUCHI, YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

Aidonogie on Page 1

Continued from Page 1
ports that he was missing or dead while performing the hajj.

The Afenmai during a fact finding tour to ascertain the facts surrounding the report of the missing report met brickwall from palace members dismissing the reports as untrue.

A palace chief told The Afenmai that the Aidonogie will soon be back, adding that he is fine with no problem.

In a dialogue, The Afenmai spoke exclusively with the Clan head about the disturbing issues and how it affects his person as a traditional ruler.

Your Highness, you must have heard the report alleging that you were missing or dead while performing the hajj, what is your reaction?

This is the work of my detractors, to me I am not bothered at all. The rumour was baseless with no facts at all. I performed the holy pilgrimage as one of the nominated member on the delegation of Edo State this year and this is my third Hajj so far and I am pleased to have performed the rites.

Your Highness, I guess you could have nominated one of your chiefs or Imam to represent you since you have performed this rites before...

Like I said, it was the government that nominated me and since I am hale and healthy, there is nothing wrong for me not to have performed the hajj, but if there is any situation where I am incapacitated, then I could nominate someone to take my position but the situation is not that bad that would warrant this.

What was your experience during the hajj?

continued from page 1
that the situation is such that honest Edo Central people have said, it is the turn of Edo North and because of this claim, no aspirant have emerged from the area, hence no one is coming out to say that I want to be Governor.

"From my own point of view, Edo North should be given the mandate, but they say to you as a reminder that, it is left for the people of Edo North to be careful whether or not they want it because, Edo South wants it too".

Chief George Izobo, added that "Edo South does not believe that Edo North should be given the chance, it does not believe why Edo North should be challenging their traditional rights to Governorship and hence they are coming out in large numbers".

Speaking further, the former council chief said "They are already using Edo North people against the contestants in the area, with the nomination of their running mates".

Chief Izobo added "Edo South should know that, we realize we have our traditional, historical root from the base. "We realize that they have population advantage, therefore, I am seeking there understanding to

It was the worst tragedy, I have witnessed in my life when hundreds of pilgrims perished in a fire inferno that engulfed the pilgrims camp. There was so much confusion all over the place as you are on your own. It was one of the most difficult moment for the pilgrims to ensure that he or she is safe as no one could really ascertain what must have caused the fire.

Were you in contact with any of the traditional rulers in Mecca?

The only traditional ruler that I came in contact with was the Onogie of Jagbe, a very close friend of mine. We discussed at length about our people at home and issues concerning the hajj.

What was it like when you arrived in your clan, did you at any given time heard that you were missing or dead and does this bothers you at all?

The crowd that ushered me into the town, I have never seen such in my life. Honestly, I am very proud of my people. They were really concerned about my safety, I could feel it on arrival and I could not help it when tears rolled down my eyes. It was a reception that will linger in the memory of the entire indigens of the clan. People from all walks of life wanted to confirm if actually I have arrived going by the rumour that was earlier circulated but I am proud to be back to the throne of my forefathers. You can see me that I am very healthy with no problem.

...Loses Son while in Mecca
Meanwhile, one of the Aidonogie son passed on while he was in Mecca, he has since been buried.

Nimetulahi, Obozuwa and Yisa Braimoh

know that the minority should also be given the chance".

The former Council Chief stressed further that, "The Edo central appreciate the fact that we are three brothers and one of us is yet to have a taste of the office, so let them re-appreciate this topical issue".

According to Chief Izobo, "it is only when Edo South re-appreciate the fact that we belong to each other, so that the spirit that influence the craze for Afemesan State be punctuated". "The spirit of alienation and dominance, that has been over time that we all belong to Edo State and we are not having our fair share in the state political status".

Contributing to the debate in Benin, Alhaji Nimetulahi Momodu, a Pharmacist from Aviele clan, Etsako West and Dr. Augustine Obozuwa from Iviukhuavillage, Weppa-Wanno clan in Etsako East local government, remarked that the basic fact is that "for equity, justice and fairplay, Edo North should be given the mandate".

Adding support to the topic is a one time Ag. National Chairman of National Centre Party of Nigeria (NCPN) from Ihevbe in Iviadaobi clan of Owan East local government recently de-

former Insurance Executive with American International Insurance Company Ltd, as the new "Yerima" Prince Igiekhume, a Legal Practitioner and one of the most Senior member of the bar based in Benin city will bag the position of "Galadima" all representing the various wings of Ikelebe royal family consisting of Ideao, Ikharo, Omomo/Igechi/Omonofua wings.

Speaking in the same vein, one of the recipient, Alhaji Yaro Lecky Waziri elect in Auchi, remarked that "as you know recognition is always based on merit".

On the question of introducing titles in Hausa language despite being of Edo origin, Alhaji Yaro Lecky added, "our religion is tailored towards the Hausa,

Continued from Page 1

ement, with children in Primary 3 - 5 being forced to work in the teachers farmland during school hours without clearance from their parents and their employers.

In an interview with a Nine years old female student in primary 4 name withheld of Oshiozekhai primary school, she said "on several occasion, she has been inflicted with corporal punishment for disobeying her teachers and this does apply to her colleagues as well". She

clared for the United Nigeria Congress Party (UNCP). Alhaji Yisa Braimoh, stating that "the only option left is for Edo South to concede the office to Edo North in order to strengthen the brotherliness".

The outcry over what senatorial districts will get the nod has been top most on the political parties agenda during their forthcoming primaries schedule later in the year, has generated much controversy with political observers also adding weight in favour of a candidate emerging from Edo North.

According to some analyst, only Major General George Iunih a one time Governor of Bendel State had the opportunity to administer the state on military appointment and not through the democratic process of which his period was

... Dan Orbih Flags Off Campaign

The need to provide quality service and dependable leadership to all segments of the state will be strengthened in Edo State said Barrister Dan Orbih. He made this remark at a political gathering witnessed by party faithfuls women leaders and youth organisations in Benin, capital of Edo State.

Barrister added that Edo state is in dire need of a committed leader to courageously journey to socio-economic and political

Aziz and Six others to be turban in Auchi

Continued from Page 1
hence we have adopted this titles", stressing that it will not change us from become an indigene of Edo State.

Also speaking on the significance of the turbaning ceremony to The Afenmai in Lagos, Dr. C.S. Momoh, of the Philosophy department, University of Lagos, said that this is a wonderful thing coming to Auchi, adding that this will definitely bring the unity we have all along being requesting.

According to Dr. Momoh, who was full of praise for some personalities listed, commended the Otaru of Auchi, Alhaji Aliru Momoh for the decision of unifying the entire Ikelebe family despite odds.

In a chat with The Afenmai

Etsako Teachers Indicted for Child Labour

added that less period for academic teaching is devoted by the teachers, as they involve in menial activities in the school, as they were often directed to shred melon, harvest cassava in the farm, digging and weeding of farmlands.

Speaking further, "most of the students have no choice, but to yield to pressure or else they will not be allowed to participate in class examinations or deliberate seizure of their re-

sult".

In a chat with a parent popularly called "Wahala", an indigene of Iviakpi village, he said "can you believe it that when I communicate with my child in English, she does something else as this does bothers him, hence he had to approach the school authority on the lapses".

Mr. Wahala said, on this day in question he visited the school, he met three of the teachers were involved with melon shredding during school hours with the children left to be on their own.

According to Mr. Wahala, he expressed his displeasure over the attitude of the teachers for not abiding to their contractual obligation to the children and the government. He however, question the ability of the teachers to part knowledge to the ward.

When he questioned the teachers why they had to convert the classrooms into domestic use, one of the teachers responded that "what do you expect me to do, when we have not been paid, adding that after all, she must feed".

A female teacher from Iviakpi married to a former council staff was made mentioned of flagrant abuse of the children by deliberating deploying them to her private farms.

According to a source in the village, the woman in question has been urged to desist from the acts on several occasion of which she was advised to always deploy her own children in preference to others.

In Etsako Central local government, Fugar community, a teacher was downgraded from teaching Primary Five to One due to her excessive child labour in the school. The decision to downgrade her was taken by the Headmaster in consultation with the authorities for disrespect.

According to close associate to The Afenmai, in Ogbona village, one student died as a result of excessive farming levelled against teachers in the area, a situation that almost caused a wrath between parents and the community.

Incessant abuse of students has been on the increase in some secondary schools also in Auchi, South-Ibie, and Uzairue area as well with some of the students pleading not to be mentioned or

in Lagos, Prince A.B.C. Momoh, one of the recipient spoke of the significance of the titles remarking that most of the positions are of Senior Prince in the family adding that the position of a "Dania" is almost next in rank to the Highness.

This development may have also form part of the policy thrust which the Otaru promised during his election speech at the council hall with the idea of uniting and introducing major reforms to the traditional institutions.

The turbaning ceremony as political observers in Auchi and Lagos describe, will be one of the biggest event to take place in the town since the coronation of the Otaru as scores of dignitaries from all walks of life

with representative of the Federal Government and party Chieftain expected to add grace to the turbaning ceremony.

Meanwhile, The Afenmai checks gathered that Alhaji Abdul-Aziz Garuba will be formally presented to the gathering as a gubernatorial aspirant of Edo State flagging off his much expected state wide campaign.

Speaking to The Afenmai in Lagos going by speculation earlier about his contesting for the seat, Alhaji Aziz Garuba confirmed that "I am in the race to be the next Chief Executive of Edo State, but I am awaiting the electoral guidelines to be released by NECON on the selection process of candidates". (see Profile of Aziz-Garuba on page 7)

else the school authorities might destroy their career. A student said "I was asked to work in my teachers farm, which I objected and during my examination, I was deliberately failed for no fault of mine.

He said, "sometimes, your result will be withheld until the assignment must have been completed adding that the only option is for the government to intervene and save the situation before it is too late".

The students added that the resultant effect of their poor performance in academics should be traced to the teachers which they accused of indiscipline to constituted authorities.

The Afenmai in an attempt to seek the opinion of officials of the Local Government Education Authority proved abortive, but a teacher confirmed the acts by some of his colleagues, adding that, not until the bad eggs are thrown out and prosecuted, the child abuse syndrome will not cease.

In a chat with The Afenmai, Hon S. Okume a councillor representing South-Ibie in Etsako West local government said, several please have been made to the teachers to desist from this acts.

Hon. Okume added that a case in point was, when the youth wing in the community stormed the school on a particular occasion to observe the academic activities for a week, remarking that there was significant improvement on the part of the teachers, but after the monitoring exercise, the teachers relaxed and there was a drop in the results recorded in the school.

The Afenmai during a fact finding visit to Etsako West Education Board, the executive secretary was reported to be absent, but a senior official Mr. Uphokodu expressed his dismay over the disturbing trend, "adding that such complaints has never reached them and if they get such report, they will not fail to discipline the teachers concerned.

He added, We have inspectors who always go there to inspect activities in school but have never come up with such a problem, stressing that "As from now, we will keep watch and will not fail to deal with anybody who flout our rules and regulations, he said.

ERROR

In our story on page 1, "UNCP Unfolds Priorities in Etsako West", of March 1997 edition, we erroneously credited Chief Oakhena as the Chairman of UNCP in Etsako West instead of Chief Okhaemoh, we sincerely regret the mix up of names. Our apology to Chief Okhaemoh, Chairman of Etsako West UNCP.

Editor

Congratulations

On behalf of my family,
we extend our congratulations
to the
SARKI SAMALI OF AUCHI



Prince Ismaila Ibrahim Ikharo

On his Conferment/Investure as the
Sarki Samali of Auchi by
HRM. Alhaji Aliru .H. Momoh,
Ikelebe III,
Otaru of Auchi
on the 17th May, 1997.

We wish you long life and prosperity.

Dr. & Mrs. M. Lecky.

Felicitation

I, Alhaji (Chief) Inu Umoru (JP)
Chief Executive of Setraco Nigeria Limited
and Annotsekha-Ekhana of Auchi
send felicitation to:-

Alhaji Abdul-Aziz Garuba - Mogaji of Auchi
Alhaji Yaro Lecky - Waziri of Auchi
Prince A.B.C. Momoh - Dania of Auchi
Alhaji Umoru Abuda Momoh - Yerima
Prince A.M.G. Igiekume - Galadima of Auchi
Prince Ishmael Ikharo - Sariki Samali of Auchi

On their turbaning by His Royal Majesty,
Alhaji Aliru .H. Momoh, Otaru of Auchi, Ikelebe III
on the 17th day of May, 1997.



Alhaji (Chief) Inu Umoru
Chief Executive
Setraco Nigeria Limited.

Congratulations

The Management and Staff of
THE AFENMAI NEWSMAGAZINE
rejoice with our respectable mentors as they are conferred
titles by the His Royal Majesty,
Alhaji Aliru Highbred Momoh, Ikelebe III,
Otaru of Auchi
on this day of 17th May, 1997.

Alhaji Abdul-Aziz Garuba - Mogaji of Auchi
Alhaji Yaro Lecky - Waziri of Auchi
Prince A.B.C. Momoh - Dania of Auchi
Alhaji Umoru Abuda Momoh - Yerima
Prince A.M.G. Igiekume - Galadima of Auchi
Prince Ishmael Ikharo - Sariki Samali of Auchi

May Allah continue to guide you all in the positions.

Management

THE AFENMAI NEWS-MAGAZINE

Send Off Party for NYSC Boss

The Weppa Wanno Union of Nigeria, Abuja Branch, organised a send off party during the Easter break for Mr. Tom Iyelobu who was recently appointed NYSC Director for Borno State.

The event attracted dignitaries from Etsako resident in the FCT with Mr. Martins Apemiye of CBN, Mr. Joe Wenegieme, First Bank Manager Abuja Branch and Barrister V. Omegai in attendance.

Others are Messrs Osi Imomoh, Director Olive Properties, Pat. Awenegieme, Vice Chairman of the Union with family members of Mr. Iyelobu.

Transition

Mr. Stephen Osigbemhe, a community leader in Iviora village of Uzairue clan in Etsako West has been reported dead.

Mr. Osigbemhe aged 70 died after a brief illness at Irrua Specialist hospital.

He is survived by a wife and 9 children amongst whom is Miss Vera Osigbemhe a Staff Writer with The Afenmai Auchu Bureau.

Also David Iroabuchi of The Afenmai Lagos office lost her mother Madam Iroabuchi a native of Abia State.

Warrake Union Elects Officers

The Warrake Federated Progressive Union, Abuja has re-elected members of the Executive Council for a new term of office.

They are Alhaji (AS) Yakubu Esehie as Chairman, Alhaji

(Engineer) Zekeri Momoh as Vice Chairman and Mallam Mohammed as Secretary General.

Others elected are Messrs. Salmanu Braimah as Financial Secretary and Malik Iriafe as Treasurer.

Emozozo Elected Usagbe Club President

Mr. Adamu Emozozo, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been elected new President of Usagbe Club of Nigeria.

Mr. Emozozo a Career Diplomat is a native of Iviukhua village in Weppa-Wanno clan in Etsako East local government.

He succeeds Major Alimikhena

New Mandate for Etsako Club 81 Executives

Prince M.S. Momodu led executive of Etsako Club 81 has been given a new mandate to steer the activities for a period of 1 year.

Listed in the executive are Engineer Azebeokhai as Vice President, Mr. Akpaibor of Richfunds Investments as 1st Vice President and Alhaji A.R. Garuba as Secretary General.

Others in the list are Hon. Abdul Rahman Kadiri, Chief (Mrs) Odogwu and Alhaji Aruna Ousman.

Our Lady Alma Mata Donates to School.

School Benches worth thousands of Naira have been donated by the various alma mata of Our Lady of Fatima Old Boys Association.

According to a Press State-

ment, the Benin Chapter led by Dr. Eddy Erhagbe of Uniben and Ikuenebe donated 10 three seater chairs, desks and sports equipment worth N50,000.

Also the Ekpoma chapter led by Mr. Oshomah donated 15 seats and N21,000 to the school.

The Warri chapter led by Barrister Greg Uloke, Sunny Yusufu, Irabere and Precious Mordi donated Science Materials, Wall clock to the school for the teaching of Chemistry, Physics and Biology.

The Auchu led chapter led by Chief Basil Oshiohamele, Oshoke Steve, George Aluyer and Osigbemhe P.O has mobilised members to rehabilitate the staff rooms and offices with 44 chairs and 11 tables.

Also contributing to the rehabilitation exercise is the United States chapter led by Mr. Liasu Braimah donating giant trophies to boost sporting activities, cyclostyling machines and funds to restore telephone services to the school.

While receiving the goods, the principal of the College, Mr. J.S. Emoabino commended the noble role of the various chapters for restoring the lost glory of the college.

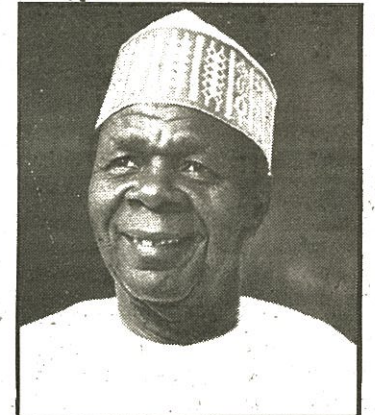
Mr. Emoabino pledged that all items donated to the school would be channel into proper use for the upliftment of the institution.

courtesy Avianwu Satellite Abubakar Inaboya in Abuja, Isaac Ikhnade in Fugar and Kedvin Ebonuaye in Benin.

On Behalf of The President and Entire Members of **Auchi Allied Association,** The Auchu Allied Association Front For the election of **Alhaji Abdul-Aziz Garuba As Governor of Edo State,** Wish to Rejoice and Congratulate **Alhaji Abdul-Aziz Garuba** on his turbaning as **"THE MOGAJI OF AUCHI"** By HRM. Alhaji Aliru H. Momoh, Ikelebe III, *The Otaru of Auchu* on the 17th Day of May, 1997



HRM Alhaji H.A. Momoh Ikelebe III, Otaru of Auchu.



Alhaji Abdul Aziz Garuba Mogaji of Auchu

We also wish to congratulate the following

- Prince A.B.C. Momoh - Dania of Auchu
- Prince Ishmael Delta Ikhara - Seriki Samali of Auchu
- Alhaji Yaro Lecky - Waziri of Auchu
- Alhaji U.A. Abuda Momoh - Yerimah of Auchu
- Barrister A.M. G. Igiekumeh - Galadima of Auchu

Signed

Dada Abubakar -Chairman
Abdul-Kareem Braimah
Abu Isah

Yahaya MKD Abubakar
Zainab Ali
Zakawanu Garuba - Secretary

HURRAY!

*On behalf of Myself and Family,
I share in the Joy of the Conferment
of SERIKI SAMALI OF AUCHI*
ON



PRINCE ISHMAEL DELTA IKHARO

by HRM. Alhaji H. A. Momoh, Ikelebe III,
The Otaru of Auchu

On the 17th day of May, 1997.

You no doubt deserve this rare honour from a community that appreciates your efforts to raise Auchu to soaring heights.

May Allah grant you good health and long life to continue in this noble service.



Prince Momoh, Imoh M. Ikhara, Otaru of Auchu