



NIGERIA NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT OBASANJO STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF WORLD SECURITY

President Olusegun Obasanjo has expressed the need for world leaders to ensure that there is common security and common prosperity globally. President Obasanjo stated this in Paris during a press conference at the end of the working session of the meeting of the New Partnership for African development (NEPAD). Thirteen African heads of state and government attended the meeting which was held at the invitation of French President, Jacques Chirac. President Obasanjo observed during his address that the events of September 11 last year, showed that the world needed to have a “re-thinking” and that no nation can consider itself to be secure, even if it was armed to the teeth. President Obasanjo pointed out that the reduction of poverty was the responsibility of leaders of the entire world. That was one reason why, developed and developing nations should work together for a more secure and a just world he said.

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President Olusegun Obasanjo (4th from left) stressing a point during the NEPAD press briefing

ABUJA, SAO TOME SET UP JOINT OIL AUTHORITY

President Olusegun Obasanjo and President Fradique de Menezes of Sao Tome and Principe have launched a Joint High Authority (JHA). The JHA, under the auspices of a Joint Development Zone (JDZ), will manage offshore oil exploration in the Gulf of Guinea which lies between the two countries. The Gulf of Guinea is an oil-rich 180,000 sq. km. region that had been contested by the two countries for years. Under the new accord, Nigeria will receive 60 percent of the revenue while Sao Tome will receive 40 per cent.



President Fradique de Menezes of Sao Tome and Principe

UNDP SETS UP FUND TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



United Nations Secretary General,
Mr. Kofi Annan.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has launched a programme to promote community development and aid the eradication of poverty in Nigeria. The initiative is an offshoot from the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan's *Global Compact*. The programme, known as the Human Develop-

ment Fund (HDF) targets the poorest areas of the country. HDF, working with other development partners will support projects providing basic infrastructure and assist projects that will promote literacy and create jobs for the youths and people in rural communities. The UNDP is already assisting more than 400 community development projects in Nigeria.

MAYOR OF EAST CLEVELAND BEGINS SECOND TERM

Reverend Emmanuel Onunwor, the Nigerian-born Mayor of East Cleveland in the United States of America, has been sworn in as Mayor for a second term. Four years ago, Rev. Onunwor made history by being the first African to be elected Mayor in the United States. Reflecting on his tenure as Mayor, he noted that the city had

faired better compared to the previous 25 years as crime had reduced by 25 per cent, homicide had declined and drug dealers who hitherto had taken over the streets, are disappearing. He however stressed that relentless work was still needed to further improve the community

FIRST BANK OPENS GSM LOAN SCHEME

In recognition of the crucial role of telecommunications in nation-building, one of the leading banks in Nigeria, First Bank of Nigeria PLC, has commenced a scheme under which it gives loans to customers and corporate organisations wishing to acquire mobile telephone facilities. The scheme, known as First GSM Acquisition Scheme, offers loans of up to N100,000 to customers which are repayable over a minimum period of six months.



President Olusegun Obasanjo, (3rd from right, back row) with other African Presidents and host, President Jacques Chirac, at the NEPAD meeting in Paris



Graduation ceremony at the University of Jos.

GOVERNMENT APPROVES NEW UNIVERSITIES

University education in Nigeria has been given a boost with the approval by government of the establishment of three new universities. The Minister of Education, Professor Babalola Borishade, has disclosed that the newly accredited universities are Convent University in Otta, Ogun State, to be established by the World Mission Agency under the chairmanship of Bishop Faith Oyedepo. Benson Idahosa University in Benin, Edo State, which is being established by Benson Idahosa of Church World Mission and Pan-African University, in Lagos State, which is to be established by the Pan-African Development Foundation. The Foundation has, on its board, prominent Nigerians such as Chief Ernest Shonekan, Mr. Akintola Williams and Dr. Christopher Kolade. Professor Borishade said that the three universities which have foreign partners as co-sponsors, fulfilled the pre-qualification criteria required by the National Universities Commission (NUC). The latest approval brings to seven the number of private universities endorsed by government.

NIGERIAN LISTED AMONG WORLD'S BEST INVENTORS

A local schoolteacher in northern Nigeria, Mohammad Bah Abbah, has earned a place among the best inventors of the year 2001 by *Time* magazine. He is the recipient of the Rolex Award for Enter-



A Nigerian potter engaged in his vocation.

prise for his invention of a simple refrigeration device which solves the problem of food preservation. The device comprises a small earthenware pot placed inside a large one. The space between the two is filled with moist sand. Food items such as fruits

or vegetable to be preserved are put into the inner smaller pot and a wet cloth covers the whole contraption. As the water in the sand evaporates through the larger pot, it carries heat away from the inner core of the device. Tomatoes and pepper can be stored in the pots for up to three weeks. The invention which is made from local raw materials is ideal for areas with no electricity. 37-year-old Abbah, who hails from a family of pot makers, is using his \$75,000 award to make his invention available throughout Nigeria.

LAZ EKWUEME WINS PRIZE FOR ECOWAS ANTHEM

Nigeria's Professor Laz Ekwueme has won the prize for the lyrics of an anthem for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Professor Ekwueme's entry, a two-stanza composition focuses on West Africa's rich historical culture and its abundant human and material resources and underscores the urgency for solidarity and integration. The music to go with the lyrics of the anthem for the 15-nation community, was produced by Commandant Falon Wade of the Senegalese Armed Forces. ECOWAS, with its headquarters in Abuja, was founded in 1975 to foster economic integration within the sub-region.

CHILD CARE TRUST - DID YOU KNOW?



Chief (Mrs) Stella Obasanjo caring for the needy.

Did you know that the needs of physically and mentally challenged children in Nigeria have been given a huge boost with the setting up of the Child Care Trust by the First Lady, Chief (Mrs) Stella Obasanjo? The Trust is a non-governmental, non-profit making charity

to cater for the educational and healthcare needs of handicapped children. The project institutes programmes to combat child abuse and it rehabilitates abandoned babies. More information about this remarkable project, that is helping to improve the future of Nigerian children that are in unfortunate circumstances, can be accessed at www.childcaretrustng.org If you are interested in contributing to the Trust, please contact the Embassy of Nigeria, Paris or send an e-mail to childcaretrust@rosecom.net With your help, Child Care Trust can help to put a smile on a child's face.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HONOURS SADE ADU



Sade Adu

Nigerian-born singer, Sade Adu, has been conferred with, Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE), by Queen Elizabeth II of England. The 42-year-old singer is among 971 persons honoured with different awards for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the betterment of the society in their various fields of endeavour.



Images from the Nigerian Fashion Show in Paris.

NIGERIAN COUTURE ON DISPLAY IN PARIS

The very best of Nigeria's unique couture was on display to fashion lovers at the Nigerian Fashion Show held in Paris. Six top Nigerian designers displayed an array of creative day wear and glamorous evening wear. The designs were made from African fabrics such as *aso oké*, *adire* and batic. The designers reflected the rich ethnic diversity of Nigeria. Mr. Lexy Mojo-Eyes, the originator of the Nigerian Fashion Show, said that another show would be staged in Paris in October this year.

