

Abarshi's maiden book debuts

By TINA BENJAMIN,
Kaduna

PASTOR Moses Abarshi has been described as a man with God-given talent to bless the lives of others and whom God has given the ability of writing to put down God's wisdom for others.

This statement was made yesterday by Pastor Yakubu Kezi of Living Faith Church during the dedication and commissioning of a publication titled *Touch not mine anointed* at Our Saviour Anglican Church, Kaduna.

"God is highly interested in our business that is why He gave us His word to be listened to and read in order to nourish our souls and live better lives," he said.

Speaking earlier at the occasion, Pastor Moses Abarshi said God has directed and led him for about 20 years now to what was dedicated and commissioned.

"I am grateful to God, that today being my birthday, I could stand before a great people like you to tell you the

plain ways God has led me in the past to what we are doing now and to the great things he is about to do with the birth of this vision," he said.

According to him, the journey into this ministry started as far back as 1987, when he had an encounter with the Lord after fasting for seven days and reading through the book of Isaiah.

"I began writing the book *Touch not mine anointed* early 2000. Discouragement set in, pressing needs delayed production but I give God all the glory today," he said.

He, however, call on those present at the occasion as many as God stirs up their hearts to partner with him in prayers and finances to commit themselves to this God-given vision of teaching and publishing ministry.

The occasion was graced by many dignitaries among whom was Mr. Mansur Dauda, former Nigerian News Editor, Mr. Ndanusa Alao.

1 killed, 2 injured in gov's motorcade accident

A MOTORCYCLIST died while two others sustained injuries in an accident involving the motorcade of Osun Governor, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola, on the Osogbo-Ikirun road.

The accident, according to an eyewitness, occurred on Osogbo-Ikirun road involving two motorcyclists in a head-on collision with the governor's motorcade.

According to the account, Oyinlola was not in the motorcade which was returning to Osogbo from Okuku when the accident occurred.

The witness said some motorcyclists who were coming from the opposite direction collided with the motorcade near Oduwoye Petrol Station, few kilometres to Ikirun.

The impact of the collision threw off one of the motorcyclists who hit the rear of the vehicle in the motorcade.

It was also gathered that a

motorcyclist died instantly, while two others sustained serious injuries.

The wounded persons were conveyed to a nearby hospital by good Samaritans. The Chief Press Secretary to the governor, Mr. Lasisi Olagunju, confirmed the incident.

He said one person died in the accident and that the governor was not in the motorcade at the time of the accident.

Olagunju said four vehicles in the governor's motorcade were returning to Osogbo after dropping Oyinlola at Okuku, his home town.

He said the driver of the rear vehicle who witnessed the accident promptly informed other vehicles in the motorcade on the mishap.

He said it was necessary to make the clarification on the accident as the opposition had

already alleged that the governor's motorcade was responsible for the accident.

He maintained that the governor's motorcade had never been involved in any accident in the last four years.

On behalf of the governor, Olagunju expressed condolences to the family of the deceased and prayed God to grant repose to the soul of the departed.

CNPP wants dialogue with Yar'Adua

By BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

NATIONAL Chairman of the Conference of Nigerian Political Parties (CNPP), Dr. Olapade Agoro yesterday advocated a round-table negotiation between President Umar Yar'Adua and political stakeholders in the country especially the CNPP to move the country forward.

Dr. Agoro who was the presidential candidate of the National Action Council (NAC) in the April 21, presidential elections stated this in Ibadan during an interview with journalists.

He said for now, the CNPP would want the president to carry along all the stakeholders in the nation's political circle

in the interest of the nation and good governance.

The CNPP National chairman pointed out that there was the need for the president to look into the possibility of forming an all-inclusive and consensus government.

"We of the CNPP will not have anything to do with government until a consensus government is formed through dialogue and round table negotiation by the stakeholders," he said.

Tribunal refuses to stop inauguration of Nnamani as Senator

THE Enugu State Election Tribunal has refused to stop the inauguration of Dr. Chimaroke Nnamani, as the senator representing Enugu east senatorial zone.

The defeated AC Senatorial candidate for the zone, Mr. Nana Ogbodo, had asked the tribunal to issue an order restraining Nnamani from being inaugurated, following the inability of the plaintiff's lawyers to serve the respondent.

Ogbodo in an ex-parte motion filed by his counsel, Mr. Chuka Machie in Enugu, told the tribunal that all efforts to serve the respondent had failed.

Machie in seeking the order, argued that since it had become difficult to locate and serve the

respondent, the tribunal should stop his inauguration as senator.

The Chairman of the tribunal, Justice Samuel Otta, however dismissed the request, saying since the respondent had not been served it would not entertain the case and adjourned hearing in the case indefinitely.

The tribunal, however, ruled that Nnamani should be served through advertisement in any of the national newspapers.

The counsel had earlier, argued against that saying would be too expensive for his client. He urged the tribunal to order that the respondent be served at his country home by a court bailiff through any adult found in his compound.

Ogbodo's in the petition is contesting the eligibility of Nnamani to contest the election. "Given aggravated issues of corruption perpetrated by Nnamani as governor, he was not fit to contest any election," he stated in the petition.

The AC candidate also contended that the former governor did not resign from office before contesting the senatorial election contrary to the provisions of the Electoral Act of 2006.

ASP Akinmoladun who said the "DPO is now in a stable condition", added that some arrests have been made by the police while investigation into the matter still continues.

As at the time of sending this

story, *New Nigerian Weekly* learnt that scores of people are still fleeing the town to avoid possible arrest by the police.

The irate protesters also set the police station ablaze during the protest that lasted for almost five hours.

Yar'Adua's mother visits Obasanjo

By NIYI OGUNGBOLA,
Abeokuta

FORMER President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo yesterday said he was a mere instrument of vessel used by God to make Alhaji Umar Musa Yar'Adua the president adding that the entire Yar'Adua family should be thankful to God and not him.

Obasanjo stated this at his Ita-Eko, Abeokuta residence while receiving the 80 year-old mother of President Yar'Adua Hajiya Habiba Dada Yar'Adua who was accompanied by the wife of the president's elder brother, late Major-General Shehu Musa Yar'Adua, Mrs. Binta Yar'Adua.

Obasanjo said that, human beings are instruments of vessel before God and as such, nothing any human being can achieve without God's

blessings and thus, the family of the President should always be thankful to God who has made it possible for Yar'Adua to become the president of Nigeria.

"We share with you this joy, we felicitate with you that in your life time you have the honour to witness what God has bestowed on one of your children. This is the work of God and I will urge you to continue to pray not only for Umar but for his government and the country," Obasanjo advised.

He further advised the old woman to strengthen her relationship with her son, President Umar Yar'Adua because it is only prayer and good advices that can hold and sustain the president and his team.

"We thank you and the entire family for taking the pain

to come down here from Katsina. I told you not to come but you insisted, I am grateful and happy to receive you," Obasanjo stated.

In her response, the president's mother who spoke through an interpreter said that the entire Yar'Adua family will continue to rely on Obasanjo's leadership adding, "we appreciate the roles played by Chief Obasanjo and the entire family, we will for ever remain grateful to you," she stated.

Earlier, the Ogun State Governor Otunba Gbenga Daniel said that the humility of the Yar'Adua family is legendary and their simplicity is unparalleled.

Governor Daniel said that the entire country is proud of President Yar'Adua because he is a man of high quality and pedigree just as he wished his administration a peaceful tenure.



From left, Head of Service, Yayale Ahmed, President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, Kwara State Governor, Dr. Bukola Saraki and former Kaduna State Governor, Ahmed Makarfi during Friday Prayers at the National Mosque, Abuja yesterday.

DPO beaten to coma

... as police van kills man

By BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

IT was confusion galore yesterday in Iseyin in Oyo state when a police van hit and killed a middle aged man resulting in violent protest by the people of the town.

During the protest the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in the town was attacked by the mob and beaten to coma.

No fewer than 25 people were said to have been arrested by the police over the crisis.

Also, the Iseyin police station was invaded to fish out the driver of the police van.

New Nigerian Weekly gathered that trouble started few minutes after the police van knocked down the middle aged

man while the driver escaped from the scene with the van.

The mob on confirming the death of the victim marched on the police station demanding for the driver of the van.

Sources said it was at this juncture that the DPO in charge of the station started pleading with the protesters to tarry a bit and allow the police to take appropriate step on the matter so as not to degenerate into major crisis.

Our sources said the pleas by the DPO fell on deaf ears of the protesters.

The sources stressed that a minor argument which ensued between the police and the protesters at this juncture

however degenerated into full crisis during which the DPO and some of his men were mercilessly beaten by the protesters.

It was learnt that while some of the policemen at the station were lucky to escape from the hands of the protesters, the DPO was not all that lucky as he was said to have been beaten to coma by the protesters.

The DPO said to have sustained various degrees of injuries during the attack, was said to be receiving medical treatment at Baptist Medical centre, Ogbomoso as at the time of filing this report.

New Nigerian Weekly gathered that the crisis paralysed activities in and around the town as those returning to the town from Ibadan after gracing the swearing in ceremony of a new Caretaker Chairman and members for Iseyin local government were forced to suspend their planned celebration.

Contacted, Oyo State Police Command Public Relations Officer, ASP Olu Akinmoladun confirmed the attack on the DPO and the Iseyin Police station by the protesters.

Zamfara Speaker appointed SSG

GOVERNOR Mamuda Aliyu of Zamfara has appointed the out-going speaker of the State Assembly, Alhaji Mohammed Bawa, as the new Secretary to the State Government (SSG).

A statement issued in Gusau by the Director of Press Affairs to the governor, Alhaji Adamu Katuru, said the appointment was with immediate effect.

It said the appointment was in recognition of his record of service and contribution to the overall development of the state.

Bawa had served as the speaker of the Zamfara Assembly since 1999.