

TERRAVIVA

THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE COMMONWEALTH PEOPLE'S FORUM - ABUJA NIGERIA, DECEMBER 1 - 7, 2003

Such a Civil War

By Sanjay Suri

YES, IT was a very civil sort of war. No rioting at the auditorium at the Yar'Adua centre, not even raised voices.

But confrontation it was. Civil society members took on Secretary-General Don McKinnon with stamina sustained through the hour-long meeting. They asked for access to leaders, even to the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The Commonwealth Secretariat is too proscribed by governments to give civil society organisations the access they want to the heads of government meeting, McKinnon said at the meeting held at the Yar'Adua auditorium.

"But that has not translated into access at the heads of government meetings," McKinnon acknowledged. The Commonwealth has been unable to "make the kind of changes that would be acceptable to governments."

McKinnon walked into a battery of questions over this. Where was the opportunity for civil society to participate in CHOGM? And if the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank can provide access to CSOs, why not similarly the Commonwealth?

"I will find out what other international organizations are doing and what they are not," he said. "I hear of things they are doing, and of things they are not doing. I hear there are things we do ahead of them. But let me find out."

That might take too long, meetings like CHOGM come only once in two years, said Ezra Mbogori, a member of the Civil Society Advisory Board of the Commonwealth who chaired the meeting said. "We will tell you now, instead of taking time to go and find out, you can be sufficiently informed now."

And so he asked Kumi Naidoo, a member of the advisory committee of

the Commonwealth Foundation to enlighten the Secretary-General straightaway.

Naidoo had a go. The Commonwealth was once ahead of the game but is now way behind, Naidoo explained from the floor. Commonwealth civil society is not exactly fond of the World Bank "but even the World Bank is way ahead," he said. Its bosses recently spent a whole day talking to members of 25 civil society organisations, he mentioned by way of example.

McKinnon did not accept the instant enlightenment. "I'd like to find out some information for myself," McKinnon replied.

The question of access for civil society dominated the meeting. If civil society members really want access to heads of government at the summit, they should talk to their national

Civil society leaders fire questions at McKinnon politely but persistently

governments, he said, because there was a limit to what he could do.

"I face 54 governments who tell me what they want, and mostly what they don't want," he said. "They pay our salaries. We do not have control over that part of the agenda. We will need governments themselves to say they want a different type of engagement."

Mbogori had spoken of the "gap between rhetoric and reality" from the Commonwealth in his opening remarks. If he had been persuaded otherwise by McKinnon, his last word did not show it.

Governments decide these things "but it cannot be that he has no influence at all," he said. McKinnon must use his good offices for that meeting between civil society and some heads of

government this week, he insisted. "They need to know, they need to come to our meeting."

McKinnon smiled. But Mbogori did not give up.

"I am going to assume from his smile that he will," Mbogori said. The smile seemed to have meant different things to the two men.



Don McKinnon at Yar'Adua



Poetry reading at the People's Forum village. Special report on children page 3

Suspend Britain, CSOs Demand

By Sanjay Suri

A GROUP of Nigerian civil society organisations have asked for the suspension of Britain and Australia from the Commonwealth over the invasion and "colonial occupation" of Iraq.

The organizations sent their submission to Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon from the Commonwealth People's Forum Wednesday ahead of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) later this week.

The group of ten civil society organizations said in their petition that the involvement of Britain and Australia in the invasion of Iraq violates the Singapore declaration of principles of 1971 and the Harare declaration of principles.

"These principles make very clear that the modern Commonwealth is being built on a firm commitment to international peace and understanding, and opposition to all forms of colonial occupation and domination," the petition says.

Its signatories include the Centre for Democratic Development Research and Training, the Institute for Governance and Social Research, the Vision Trust Foundation and the Women Support and Development Initiatives.

Under the Harare declaration members have pledged their belief that "international peace and order, global economic development and the rule of international law are essential to the security and prosperity of mankind."

The invasion of Iraq had brought a "flagrant and arrogant" violation of these declarations, the petition says.

The demand to suspend Britain and Australia was made more directly to McKinnon at a meeting at the Yar'Adua centre in Abuja where the Commonwealth People's Forum is being held.

"We have always said that these issues are better resolved through the United Nations system," McKinnon replied. "If you can get UN support for the kind of actions taken, so much the better. If you can't, we have seen the result of that."

McKinnon said that if the two declarations are read as legal documents, people would get "immensely frustrated." If they are read as political documents, then they would have to be interpreted as political documents, he said.

"But no country in the Commonwealth has raised the issue of Britain and Australia being in breach of these principles," McKinnon said. "So the mechanism has not been tripped to do something."

Forum Warning to Govts

By Ferial Haffajee

COMMONWEALTH governments must match principles more closely with practice if the body is to have relevance in the twenty-first century, says a final statement from the Commonwealth Peoples Forum to be issued to heads of state who began jetting in to Abuja yesterday.

To ensure that it was more than a talk-shop, the Commonwealth Secretariat should be given the power to check up on commitments made by the top political bosses to the biannual Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting (CHOGM). The Secretariat should "be mandated to develop means of tracking and reporting progress on implementation of such Commonwealth commitments, consistent with the agreed values of good governance including transparency and accountability". In other words, the

NGOs and other elements of civil society want governments to be subject to an independent report card.

In addition, civil society warned against human rights abuses by governments and criticised the threat to freedom posed by the war on terror. "In the global climate of threat to peace and security, we ask governments to recognise that there is a threat posed to good governance in the attempt to curb terrorism which has resulted in the closing of space for civil society activity," said representatives of civil society from 45 of the Commonwealth's 53 member states and who have met in Abuja since Monday. In addition, they welcomed the "increasing global public demand for a just and secure world".

The NGO's want the Commonwealth – the world's third largest organisation of world leaders – to kick-start the failed Cancun world trade talks.

Unless the Commonwealth beefs up its ability to put policy into practice, questions about its relevance would not go away, said activists who met in a plenary all day yesterday to present its Abuja declaration to the main Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in the course of the three day meeting.

The final statement is particularly strong on pushing for better gender equality: it has called on member states to adopt the optional protocol on the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) which asserts the primacy of gender equality over traditional practice – a protection which provided "human rights instruments between the individual and the state". In addition, they called on the Commonwealth to focus on women's health by promoting female-controlled methods of avoiding infections.

Corruption, Corruption...

By Zarina Geloo

THE NIGERIAN Network of Non Governmental Organisation (NNNG) is to meet with Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo after the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to resolve the high level of corruption in the country.

NNNG Lagos state coordinator Ayo Sandius said at the Commonwealth Peoples Forum on Wednesday that there was no point in the leadership disputing Transparency International (TI) 2003 Corruption Perception Index that listed Nigeria as the second worst corrupt country in the world, when the evidence abounded.

"We cannot hide behind democracy, the fact of the matter is that Nigeria is still a corrupt society and we have to face up to it."

According to Sandius, one of the major issues the country had to tackle was its legislation. "The Constitution

The first suggestion in dealing with corruption is to acknowledge it is there, not to cloak it over with nationalism

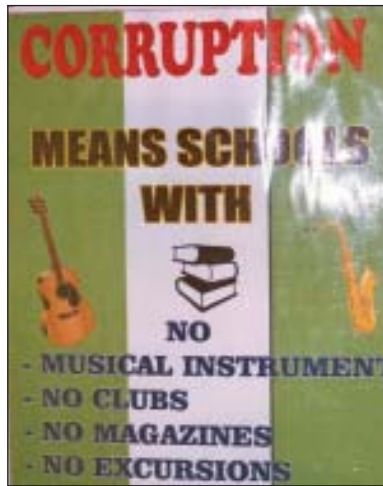
needed to be reviewed, with existing laws being strengthened. The freedom of information Act needed to be instituted. The provisions of the anti corruption laws needed to be religiously implemented and NNNG would be setting up a website on the anti corruption campaign".

Corruption, she said, had eaten deep into the judicial system and therefore expressed an urgent need to make the judiciary independent of the executive with adequate funds provided to it through the consolidated revenue fund to achieve this independent.

"Like the judiciary, the police force has come to symbolize corruption. We need to look at how we can democratize control and also bring in professionalism in the force," Sandius said.

When Obasanjo took office in 1999, he made it clear that fighting corruption would be the principle objective of his government, but four years later, when his term is almost over, all he has done is set an anti corruption agency and an anti-corruption unit in each government department.

"But even these units have not been able to prosecute or convict a single person since their establishment and yet we know that there is still so much



corruption in the country. Obviously the government has failed to deal with the problem. It needs help."

Sandius says government has traditionally been reluctant to move against the 'big fish' in corruption because it has either compromised itself or lacked the courage.

"What we want to tell the president is that in the fight against corruption he has our backing and we will support him as president and as an individual".

Sandius says while corruption is 'severest' at political level, there are practices that have evolved in the name of 'culture' which give rise to corruption.

She cited payment of high bride price, expensive burial and wedding ceremonies and awards of chieftaincy titles and national honours.

"People might think that these are petty issues, but they impact on our society and are causes of endemic corruption. Nigerians are a people who

value stature and prominence in society."

She explained that people were forced into corrupt practices to raise money for these expensive rituals to raise their profiles in society. A 'good wedding' could cost anything in excess of N1 million (US\$10,000). Payment to a king or chief for a title could cost about N250,000 (about US\$7,500). In a country where 80 percent of the people live on less than a dollar a day, Sandius said the "pressure to engage in bribe taking is high."

While NNNG cannot tell people how to spend their money, civil society can start a movement to jettison the 'obscene display of wealth' and declare 'war on ostentatious living'.



Ayo Sandius

Zimbabwe Must Be Kept Out, say CSOs

A GROUP of 350 civil society organisations have petitioned the Commonwealth to extend suspension of Zimbabwe from the councils of the Commonwealth.

Zimbabwe was suspended after a group of Commonwealth observers found gross shortcomings in elections last year.

Suspension from the councils of the Commonwealth is a kind of half-way house; it means that suspended countries cannot participate in the organisation's meetings. But their flags will fly at Abuja, and they are allowed to participate in Commonwealth sports events.

"Zimbabwe's economic, political and human rights situation continues to be of grave concern to its nationals, the region, and the wider international community," the civil societies organisation coalition says in its petition. "The possibility of the readmittance of Zimbabwe has occasioned controversy."

The group adds: "It is not the objective of the coalition to advocate the international isolation of a country we so dearly love, but to ensure that the reasons for which it was suspended from the Commonwealth are resolved."

The coalition presents lists several areas of concern in Zimbabwe. Among these:

- Laws that infringe freedom of expression have not been repealed but have become more repressive.

- Violent invasions of commercial farms continue, albeit at a reduced scale.

- The government undermines the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary in addition to criminalizing dissent.

- It disregards its undertakings to President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa and President Olusegun Obasanjo on repeal of adverse laws on freedom of expression.

"Because our internal efforts to engage with the government in resolving the crisis have been rebuffed and criminalized, we demand that the international community continue to pressure the Mugabe regime to enter into national dialogue with legitimate representation of the Zimbabwean citizenry," the coalition says in its petition.

Simultaneously, the Zimbabwe Media Group has made a submission to Commonwealth leaders that Zimbabwe is suffering from "a profound socio-political crisis that is crippling the activities of civic society."

"One of the main aims of the government in this campaign is its need to control the media and all sources of information in order to shield the nation from its excesses and present the impression that it has not resorted to violence and electoral fraud to retain its control on power." In recent times the privately owned media and their staff have become "targets for those prepared to try and silence them by any means." The group said that no one has been brought to justice for the bombing of The Daily News offices shortly before the parliamentary election in 2000. Nor have the culprits responsible for bombing the newspaper's presses in January 2001 been found.

Pharmacies to Fight AIDS

By Zarina Geloo

THE COMMONWEALTH Pharmaceutical Association (CPA) on Tuesday launched its Ocho Rios statement on HIV/AIDS at the Commonwealth Peoples Forum with a demand that governments of the Commonwealth engage the pharmaceutical industry in decision making.

Its no longer about a white coat behind the counter dishing out medicine and giving terse answers to questions on health, the pharmaceutical industry is now the cornerstone of health provision, Grace Allen -Young CPA president said Wednesday.

"Governments cannot work in isolation, the crises of HIV/AIDS stands huge. The pharmaceutical industry has to be engaged, it is the pharmacy where people access their drugs from, a partnership needs to be formed in how medical provisions are going to be accessed and treatment optimised."

She said governments and legislators throughout the commonwealth should recognize the expertise of pharmacists to ensure the best possible outcomes of treatment with anti retroviral (arvs) drugs.

In supporting the World Health Organisation (WHO) goal of ensuring three million people with HIV/AIDS receive treatment by 2005 (3x5 initiative), Allen-Young said governments should not make policy decisions alone otherwise the initiative will fail.

As well as being the primary legal custodians of medicines, pharmacists are not only providers of medicines but are also providers of reliable and accurate information, helping patients

A visit to the pharmacy does not have to mean walking into a store and asking someone in a white coat for a pill. The pharmacy is usually the first port of call for medication. This means pharmacies can play a critical role in the fight against AIDS. They can spot symptoms for a start

understand why how and when to take their medicines to optimise benefits.

Young-Allen said pharmacists play an indispensable role of breaking down the stigma and discrimination often associated with the HIV/AIDS

"We have a young pharmacist in Jamaica who actually holds talks on HIV/AIDS and ARVs at public places to give a chance to those who would be embarrassed to seek counseling to at least hear enough to enable them make informed decisions."

Commonwealth Deputy Secretary general Winston Cox who launched the statement said every country had to take specific account of the impact of the disease on its current activities and its plans for the future.

He said pharmacist's ability to influence the attitudes and behaviours

of patients was being more and more acknowledged and governments should heed this special role that they played in society

The CPA's Ocho Rios Statement on the role of pharmaceutical companies in the prevention and management of HIV/AIDS outlines a number of interventions which nations can adopt to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS infections:

- Develop country specific strategies and standard operating procedures to assist pharmacists fulfill their role in the fight against the epidemic;

- Adopt a multi sectoral approach and work strategically with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders to promote the involvement of pharmacists in the development and implementation of strategies to combat HIV/AIDS.

- Nominate pharmacists to positions on national government and professional committees relating to HIV/AIDS;

- * Lobby politicians and government health agencies to involve pharmacists in decision making processes in policy development and implementation to control and manage the pandemic and provide continuing education programmes on HIV/AIDS prevention and management and facilitate courses provided by other institutions.

"Our aim" Young-Allen says is to encourage greater public awareness of the discrimination faced daily by those living with HIV and AIDS. As pharmacists we can play a role by providing a supportive environment for sufferers and carers. When people feel safe in their communities, they are more likely to take responsibility for their HIV status, seek treatment and prevent transmission."

TERRAVIVA

TerraViva is an independent publication of IPS-Inter Press Service. The opinions expressed in TerraViva do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of IPS nor the official position of any of its sponsors.

IPS gratefully acknowledges the financial support received for this publication from the Commonwealth Foundation.

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IPS-Inter Press Service is an international not-for-profit association of journalists. IPS enjoys NGO consultative status (Category I) with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

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Printed by Garkida Press Limited
Alexandria Crescent, Abuja - Nigeria

Common Cause Sought Against Human Trafficking

By Toye Olori

THERE IS one thing Titi Abubakar, founder of Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF), wants from the Commonwealth leaders as they attend their 54th meeting in Abuja - cooperation with developing countries and a holistic approach in the fight against human trafficking.

"As Commonwealth nations, developed countries (within the body) need to evolve an integrated political approach to fight the scourge of trafficking in persons; share useful ideas and come out with time-tested solutions," Abubakar said at a session of the Commonwealth Peoples Forum yesterday.

Abubakar, wife of Nigeria's Vice President described as tragic, the situation in Africa where many parents, driven by extreme poverty, greed and ignorance, voluntarily offered their children as cheap labour and prostitution in the hope of augmenting the family income.

"The issue of cross-border trafficking deserves special attention if we are truly determined to combat the scourge of human trafficking in Africa".

Apart from greed, ignorance, rural-urban imbalance, and low education levels, other factors which caused trafficking were porous borders and the use of islands as slave depots where trafficked victims were put to various exploitative labour.

At the same meeting, Em Babandede, head of investigation and monitoring of the recently established National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP) called on Commonwealth member-countries to accept a common definition. "There should be a common definition of trafficking which involves women, children and adults".

"In Europe, which is the destination of these victims, trafficking has been separated from smuggling which represents a problem because a lot of our men arrive Europe and the British authorities say they are being smuggled but not trafficked," he noted.



Babandede accused Britain of not doing enough on the issue of human trafficking and urged her to cooperate with her Italian counterpart in combating trafficking. "Let there be a little bit of bilateral cooperation on this issue".

He also wants the Commonwealth to set standards in terms of investment in the rehabilitation of trafficked victims, so that they can be properly taken care of and resettled in their native countries.

During the plenary session there was a general agreement that political instability, unemployment, poverty and lack of economic opportunities in developing countries were responsible for the increased spate of human trafficking and warned that eradication would only be possible through the empowerment of people and through cooperation between countries.

Pascal Affo, First Counsellor, at the Embassy of Benin, whose country has been particularly affected by human

Street children, deprived children, children who must be brought to a level that the Millennium Development Goals find acceptable... these are matters that are being discussed at length this week. But maybe Abuja is the place to make that move from seminar rooms to streets. If these things must be talked about, why not do it where the children are?

trafficking, said the origin of child trafficking and labour started as a result of African extended family system. People would send their children to relatives living abroad as domestics in return for an education or to learn a trade. Unfortunately, the practice evolved into a commercial venture.

Affo said Benin had become a source and destination of the heinous crime. "Benin Republic has been having problems because the borders are very porous and whenever a family is affected by poverty, they think the solution is to send their children to Nigeria where they believe they can make money to help the family". The border between Benin and Nigeria stretches 770 kilometres making it difficult for effective policing.

Some schools in Benin had closed because of low attendance due to child trafficking to Nigeria. Hundreds of children from Benin were mid this year discovered in some parts of Western Nigeria where they were being used for labour in a quarry.

Between September and November, 200 such children were rescued by the Nigerian Police and handed back to the authorities in Cotonou. Two others were taken back to Cotonou only Wednesday (yesterday) while another 30 are expected to be handed over in Lagos to Benin today (Thursday), according to a source at the on-going CPF meeting.

Affo said the returned children were being re integrated by non governmental organizations and the



Titi Atiku Abubakar

government. "The NGOs in the country are doing their best to put them back in school or empower them through skill acquisition programme. We are also educating their parents on the evil of child trafficking".

WOTCLEF was founded in Nigeria in 1999 to build community awareness against abuse of the rights of women and children.

Through its efforts, the anti-human trafficking law has been instituted and a National Agency for Traffic in Persons Law Enforcement and Administration has been established to coordinate matters connected with trafficking. Offenders risk life jail.



From Street to School

By Sanjay Suri

SEVERAL GROUPS of schoolchildren came to the village of the Commonwealth People's Forum Wednesday. They came from different schools, their different uniforms said so.

Some children read out poems. Others were taught the dangers from AIDS. Some seemed too young to know what sex is, but teachers want to be careful these days. The children sang songs warning of the danger from AIDS.

"Yes, AIDS is for real," they sang.

And they told stories, and stories were told to them. It was all a part of the efforts made by civil society groups at the Commonwealth People's Forum, to educate children beyond formal education, to showcase what education could be, that other educators could look at.

The children were given posters on the Commonwealth, they were taught what Commonwealth is. They were taught it is oneness and togetherness, no matter where you come, and no matter what the past of their parents.

No matter even that the grandparents if not the parents of several have seen colonial days.

The uniforms looked pretty, so did the children. Pretty also because that is the way children are, the way you would expect children to be.

But the story not very far from the village is a quite different story. A group working with the promotion of education for girls in villages around Abuja is dealing not with school issues. Not even with issues at home. They deal with street children.

Before education can begin, the children need to be moved off the street. That is just what the Change Managers International Network (CMI) around Abuja has been striving to do.

The group held a workshop that focused on a partnership that is need between government and civil society to get children off the streets and into school.

Forget talk of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at conference halls during Commonwealth meetings. The real story about the MDGs sits on the streets around Abuja.

The task of meeting those MDGs is not easy, the streets say. The prime problem inevitably is funding.

"Since funding is one of the major constraints of most civil society organizations, we recommend that a civil society fund be initiated that will be funded by corporate businesses and other good-spirited individuals," a spokeswoman for CMI told TerraViva.

"We recommend that a responsible board of trustees be appointed to manage the fund," she added.

The Commonwealth business forum that is meeting in Abuja will certainly not have this on its mind. Civil society groups are often on their own when they take on projects like this. Which gives truth to the claim that it is these groups that are the ones more likely than anyone else to be in touch with ground realities.

The MDGs would have been met if you could pick any group of children at random in or around Abuja, and they could come to the village of the People's Forum and sing more or less the same songs.

Nigerian Cinema on Show at Village

Forget Hollywood and Bollywood, Nigeria has a booming local film industry that's on show in the Commonwealth Peoples Market. At a stall that has a steady stream of visitors, video and DVD films spill from shelves onto the floors.

Loyalty and nationalism alone will not get people to move away from Hollywood and such Bollywood stuff as there is. Nigerian cinema is proving a match because it is getting better all the time.

Their jacket covers reveal a diet of entertainment that clearly uses Hollywood as its lens: the covers are colourful and loud, featuring action features and comedies by the dozen. Their titles include "Baby Police", "Holy One" and "Mission to Africa".

Quantity clearly trumps quality and Sakashim Joda of the Nigerian Film Corporation says the industry churns out over 1000 films a month. As others worry about the state of the world (or the Commonwealth), Joda sits in the hot Abuja sun watching movies in English, Ibo, Hausa and Yoruba.

Visitors stream in, taking a moment or two to rest their fevered brows and tired toes. The film Omugwo, a farce about gender role reversal and which features a man feeding a baby on the cover, is a big hit as viewers sit engrossed. "Nobody in Nigeria has not watched this film," says a woman.

A Walk Through the Art World

By Ukpong E. Ukpong

IT IS at the heart of everything that happens at the Yar'Adua centre. Contemporary Nigerian artists have set up an exhibition that gives expression to the creative side of people.

Nigeria's National Gallery of Arts has helped them put up the show.

"The collection aims at showcasing the unique ensemble of artistic expressions of creative ingenuity by Nigerians for the common appreciation of the Commonwealth people," says Bridget A. C. Mundung, principal visual art officer at the National Gallery of Arts, herself a ceramist by profession.

"The exhibition is intended to evaluate general appreciation of the evolution of traditional Nigerian art to modern contemporary Nigerian art through various book publications, journals and works aimed at documenting the art trends in Nigeria," she says. "The exhibition is there to show to the Commonwealth the richness in the depiction of life and activities in our rural and urban communities."

Sussan Omagu a painter and one of the exhibiting artists lives in Abuja. "Taking part in the exhibition where I have about six paintings on display makes this a brilliant opportunity for Nigerian artists to tell the world and indeed the visiting Commonwealth people that ours is the 'real' African art," she says "It is also a medium for expression of our thoughts and ideas in tune with the spirit of the Commonwealth."

She is quick to point out that in Nigeria the level of art appreciation is low. "Therefore it is an opportunity for myself and other colleagues to project the art of Nigeria not just to Nigerians, but to the Commonwealth people," she says. "I was talking to someone this



Sussan Omagu at the arts exhibition

morning who some years ago had thrown into the river a piece of art he had received as a gift, because he thought it was worthless. This exhibition therefore brings to fore a need for more avenues like this to engender better appreciation of art and creativity."

Foreign visitors here are "dazzled and tripped by the expressive depth in style and rendition of these pieces, and I am proud they are Nigerian," she adds. The exhibition has been widely appreciated by many of the delegates at the Commonwealth People's Forum.

Around Abuja

FOR ONE little old lady, Queen Elizabeth II can cause a lot of upset. Almost every main road in Abuja's closed for her majesty. "Queen who?", you could almost hear the young people (born after the colonial years) asking as they angrily zoomed by yet another closed boulevard. "And she and Phillip are probably having a snooze," remarked one miffed young lady.

AND, NEWS agencies report that Lillibet's not venturing far out on trip back to the old colonies. The BBC's set up a mock village for her Nigerian safari - Kano's been forsaken, ostensibly for time constraints, but probably because she's worried about the restive natives there.

NOW HOW'S this for irony: our team, on their way to fetch their dog-tags from the media centre, ran into a particularly officious brand of Nigerian traffic-cop turned God. "I am not listening; not listening" he said as a delegation got out to explain the concept of a free press, freedom of movement, not to mention how desperately the ageing Commonwealth needs all the media coverage it can get.

A few moments later, the same team was handed stickers saying "Welcome to Abuja" by another man in uniform.

AND SOMEONE really should tell the army bosses that the dictatorship's over, boys. Time to put away those guns! The CHOGM venue had more guns than visitors yesterday and that's before the heads of government even arrive.

"I'M NO Donald [Rumsfeld]," Commonwealth secretary-general Don McKinnon told NGO's yesterday when a delegate to the Peoples Forum asked him whether the organisation might find the ability to shock and awe the world out of poverty the way some of its members had managed to shock and awe Iraq earlier this year.

HOT-CAREERS around Abuja during CHOGM: MTN phone-card sales; money-changer; taxi-driver; protocol officer; hotelier; bottled water-seller.



Today in Abuja

9.00-11.00
Bringing Alive the Commonwealth That We All Share
Protea Hotel FCT Room
Organised by ABCollectables

9.00-11.00
Meeting Organised by the Network Movement for Justice and Development
Yar'Adua Centre Meeting Room B

9.00-13.00
Promoting Citizen Participation in Development and Governance
Protea Hotel Imo Room
Organised by CIVICUS

9.00-13.00
Involving Rural Women in Decision-Making
Protea Hotel Osun Room
Organised by Country Women Association of Nigeria

9.00-13.00
Impact of Oil and Gas Activities on Women in the Region
Protea Hotel Afe Babalola Room
Organised by Niger Delta Women for Justice

9.00-13.00
Encountering Citizens: Expressions and Meanings of Citizenship in Nigeria
Yar'Adua Centre Auditorium
Organised by Theatre for Development Centre / Institute for Development Studies

9.00-13.00

Implementing Poverty Eradication Targets
Yar'Adua Centre Boardroom
Organised by Forum International de Montreal

9.00-13.00
Implementing Millennium Development Goals in Cameroon
Yar'Adua Centre Meeting Room B
Organised by Cameroon Women in Leadership and Development

9.00-17.00
Ethnic Tolerance and Sustainable Peace
Protea Hotel Joshua Room
Organised by Professionals for Humanity

9.00-17.00
Engendering Development and Democracy Workshop
National Assembly
Organised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Invitation only

10.00-12.00
Book Writing as a Tool for Expression: the Nigerian Experience
Commonwealth Market Hut 12

12.30-14.00
Trade Union Rights in the Commonwealth - Myth or Reality?
Yar'Adua Centre Meeting Room A
Organised by the Commonwealth Trade Union Council

14.00-17.00

Wealth Creation in Developing Countries I
Protea Hotel Osun Room
Organised by Country Women Association of Nigeria

14.00-17.00
Women's Agenda 2003
Protea Hotel Imo Room
Organised by Community Partners for Development

14.00-17.00
Reparations Meeting
Protea Hotel FCT Room
Organised by the Caribbean Rastafari Organisation

19.00
Party for media, with jazz band and cultural group. Transport from hotels. Contact National Media Coordinator.
Women's Centre, Abuja

14.00-17.00
Citizen Participation in Local Governance
Yar'Adua Centre Boardroom
Organised by Institute of Development Studies (IDS)

14.00-17.00
WAMM Steering Committee Meeting
Yar'Adua Centre Library
Invitation only

14.00-17.00
Popular Participation and Constitution Making in the Commonwealth
Yar'Adua Centre Meeting Room B

Organised by Citizens' Forum for Constitution Making in the Commonwealth

14.00-17.00
Economic Development: a Prerequisite for Human Emancipation
Yar'Adua Centre Meeting Room C
Organised by Commonwealth Youth Organisation

15.00-17.00
Legitimacy and Accountability of Civil Society
Protea Hotel Delta Room
Organised by Centre for Youth and Social Development (CYSD) and CIVICUS

16.00-18.00
Promoting Human Rights as a Tool for the Development of Democracy in the Commonwealth
Commonwealth Market Hut 12

17.30-19.00
Forum Reports - meeting organisers report on the outcomes of their meetings
Yar'Adua Centre Auditorium
Organised by Commonwealth Foundation

19.00-20.00
Launch of the Citizens and Governance Toolkit
Yar'Adua Centre Auditorium
Organised by Commonwealth Foundation