

# TERRAVIVA

THE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER OF THE COMMONWEALTH PEOPLES FORUM - ABUJA NIGERIA, DECEMBER 1 - 7, 2003

## Over to CHOGM, Anyone Listening

The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting begins today. At the people's forum the question that will inevitably be asked is how much of its deliberations will find voice at the International Conference Centre

By Ferial Haffajee

AS THE Commonwealth Peoples Forum moves into its final days, attention will shift to the International Convention Centre when the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting begins today.

And attention will shift to the question how much of all said and done at the people's forum will be considered by the heads of state.

A hectic week of meetings, a peoples market and networking ended in a statement from the forum warning the Commonwealth that it needed to make itself relevant to the world by matching its principles more closely with practice.

Follow-up needs to be much more rigorous by mandating the

Commonwealth Secretariat to audit the pledges made by heads of government. And, in turn, civil society began to look inward – what did it need to do to ensure the peoples sector was accountable and responsive to those it claims to represent?

The Forum was vital to showcase how civil society has begun to make a difference: at the meeting were representatives from 45 countries who also came to display what they do at the parallel Commonwealth Peoples market.

It was a market with a difference: in addition to selling the usual market fare of flowing fabrics, intricate basket ware and books, it also showed how to do solidarity, gender equality and grassroots work by bringing together NGO's to learn from each other.

The Country Woman Association of Nigeria, faced with a banking sector blind to the needs of rural women, has begun to pack a female financial punch. Its African Traditional Responsive Banking project takes deposits as small as one naira. Members save and borrow. "It works," said Alhaja Agoro, "these women could not talk and look someone in the face before, now see them, they are talking confidently with hands on



To the man on the bicycle CHOGM could be only another billboard

their hips because they know who they are, what they are worth – they don't beg anybody".

Everyday, NGO's met to discuss how to merge the twin imperatives of democracy and development. The theme of the CHOGM is democracy and development and the peoples' forum began to put the meat on the bones the concept.

For democracy to work in development's favour, it was essential

to deepen its principles by ensuring that the concept went far beyond putting a tick next to a candidate you barely know on election day. This is where the forum was vital: it began to flag the next generation of democracy essentials.

These included gender equity, the right to information and more effective civil society work where repression is acute in countries, not only in the countries suspended from the

Commonwealth like Zimbabwe and Pakistan but also in countries regarded as functioning democracies.

As the forum got underway, Human Rights Watch issued its report on Nigeria which found that political tolerance was low. "President [Olusegun] Obasanjo's promises of democracy mean little as long as people are being detained, tortured and shot

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On guard at Yar'Adua

## Canadian Disconnection

By Sanjay Suri

FOR A while everyone thought the cynics were wrong. Heads of government were coming to the Commonwealth people's village after all.

Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien was due at 2.40 pm. That sounded such prime ministerial precision that everyone thought it would happen. When it did not, everyone knew he would never have come.

Other prime ministers were due; these days in Abuja 'prime minister' takes the plural comfortably. No one turned up.

Chretien never was going to visit the people's market, he was due only to "slip in" on the way from one meeting to another, a spokesman for the Canadian High Commission in Abuja told TerraViva.

"It was not a firm decision to visit the market," he said. The visit could not take place because of engagements with the Queen that were delayed. So that affected the ten-minute stopover."

On the other prime ministerial visits there was no word.

"It is disappointing," said Mario Lavoie from the Forum International de Montreal (FIM), a rare Canadian at the people's forum. "This was an opportunity for Canada to demonstrate its support to Commonwealth civil society and to parallel this event to summit meetings."

The government-funded Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has supported several Nigerian civil society organizations (CSOs) to attend the Abuja event, he said. But Lavoie wanted his country to record a stronger presence.

"I just hope Canada will be true to its position in other fora, and be supportive of the role civil society can play in the Commonwealth," Lavoie said.

Civil society members missed also a presence of any significance from the other three developed states of the Commonwealth – Britain, Australia and New Zealand.

In event after event taking place day after day, there is almost no presence from the 'developed' four.

The people's forum has been a forum of some people from some countries.

## CSOs Look Within Too

By Zarina Geloo

CIVIL SOCIETY should not wait until it is under attack before it puts its house in order, Kumi Naidoo chairperson of Civicus told a meeting discussing legitimacy, accountability and transparency in civil society on Thursday night.

Naidoo said civic organizations were prone to attacks from elected representatives in governments and the private sector, because they were an unelected.

"But that should not mean that we should be operating from a position of weakness or fear. Our mandate is to ensure good governance and that peoples' issues are put on the agenda," Naidoo said.

On the other hand however, while civil society attacked governments for democratic deficits, it should ensure that it could be held up to any scrutiny. "It is not enough to merely say we are honest, we must be upfront and put our best practices into the public domain so that we are seen to be honest."

There should be public accounting to donors, and the people in whose name resources were given, Naidoo said. He added that civil society should also be

accountable to each other, "lest we duplicate work".

Giving a brief background on how accountability became an issue in South Africa, Naidoo said an anti apartheid advocate, Bishop Allan Boesak who ran an NGO was in 1994 accused of having misappropriated funds. Before he could appear in court, other civic organizations decided to take the proactive step of auditing their accounts and drawing up a code of conduct, lest the incident tarnished all NGO's.

This is why Naidoo said, it was important for countries to develop a code of ethics to which all civic bodies would be bound. Though it would appear to be a costly and time consuming exercise, it would ensure that all organisations operating under the same parameters and that abrogation could be dealt with 'in-house'.

"It only takes one NGO to do something wrong and the entire fraternity is condemned ....a code of

ethics would also mean that we (civic bodies) would be seen to be regulating themselves."

Goodson Fwimbe from the Society for Social Workers in Nigeria gave an example of this when he recounted how his association had been in the doldrums for ten years because the previous managers had stolen money and donors black listed the organization.

"Our organization is only recently reviving after a lot of lobbying. Donors are still very wary of NGOs in Nigeria and even public perception is still suspicious, not only of our organization but of civic bodies in general."

On a more temperate note, Jagadananda from the Indian NGO CYSD said civic organizations were already legitimate from being result orientated and their quality of work. Civic organisations were also value based which was a strong reference point for legitimacy.



Kuni Naidoo

# Invisible People Ask to be Seen

By Ukpong E. Ukpong

INVISIBLE PEOPLE across the Commonwealth are asking to be seen and recognized. And there are around 150 million of them.

The official word for the invisible is “indigenous”. That refers broadly to the original people of a land, often with language and customs of their own, and usually lacking political power.

Indigenous people means people like the Aboriginals in Australia, the Maori in New Zealand, the Adivasis of India, the Jumma of Bangladesh, the Wanniyala-Aetto of Sri Lanka, the Basarwa in Botswana.

At least 20 of the 54 Commonwealth countries have a significant population. The Commonwealth has about a third of the world’s indigenous population.

Members of indigenous groups “want the communiqué from the Commonwealth heads of government to include a reference to indigenous people

One group has been talking about something like 150 million people largely invisible to decision-makers. If their demands can be included in the CHOGM communique, governments can then be held to their word

as peoples,” says Les Malezer from the Commonwealth Association of Indigenous Peoples based in Australia.

The association wants the CHOGM communiqué to “acknowledge that many indigenous peoples in the Commonwealth continue to be significantly disadvantaged in comparison to other groups in society, and that special measures should be encouraged to overcome the continuing effects of colonialism or racism, with the full participation and consent of the indigenous peoples concerned.”

Malezer, who is a member of the Gubbi Gubbi people in Queensland north of Brisbane says this recognition must take their unique character into account, so that they are not classified only on economic, gender or other grounds.

“The Commonwealth last mentioned indigenous peoples in a communiqué in Lusaka (Zambia) in 1979,” Malezer says. “We are here lobbying different groups for support for a mention in the communique at the People’s Forum. We are lobbying for all such groups because

these issues are common across the Commonwealth.”

The group has found no access to governments at CHOGM. “But we have been lobbying governments for the past six months,” Malezer says.

That mention in the communiqué matters because people can then hold the governments to a commitment they make. And that could start off a new campaign to secure rights for indigenous people, says Malezer.

“Countries can then be reported on for what they have done,” Malezer says. “We can keep a report card on companies.” That explains the reluctance of many governments to include those demands in any commitment they make through CHOGM.

Moves to include such references have been blocked by the developed



Les Malezer

countries in the Commonwealth. That has kept the indigenous invisible for purposes of firm action, Malezer says, “and we don’t want to be invisible any more.”

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## CHOGM Begins Today

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simply for expressing views critical of the government,” said Human Rights Watch representative Peter Takirambudde.

At the meeting’s close last night, over 50 civil society leaders wrote a stinging open letter to the CHOGM to keep up the pressure on Zimbabwe. “We express grave concern at the Zimbabwean government’s continued violation of the Harare Declaration and Commonwealth principles reflected in its continuing repression of civil society, the media, human rights defenders and the opposition,” they said. They called on the CHOGM to “give renewed priority” to repression in Zimbabwe; to ensure that the legal armory President Robert Mugabe’s that assembled to give the veneer of legality to his action is repealed; and to persuade the government to enter into “genuine dialogue” with the opposition to begin talks toward a transition.

But is anybody listening in the place where power sits? A theme that ran through the peoples’ forum and one which bubbled tensely beneath its surface was the growing conviction that civil society is cut off from the main heart-beat of the Commonwealth because it has no direct interaction with the heads of government.

This sense of alienation was given a physical form when it transpired that civil society access to the CHOGM will be limited. Responding to secretary-general Don McKinnon’s statement that access was determined by member governments and that the issue needed to be aired in each country, a civil society leader said: “the truth is, Mr. Secretary-General, is that I find it easier to meet my government at meetings like CHOGM”.

McKinnon promised that he would compare civil society’s representation in the core decision-making structures of the Commonwealth with other inter-governmental forums.

Earlier in the week, leaders of the forum said that they were granted far more access at institutions like the World Trade Organisation and the World Bank. The Commonwealth has fallen behind in keeping up contact with people, they said.



Compared with the stiff politeness and tight policing of the Commonwealth Heads of Government, the peoples forum has been a far more organic, dare we say, democratic affair. The Yar Aduar centre has been filled with a cacophony of voices;

a rainbow of colours; a palette of styles and one thousand opinions. A picture from afar, shows the easy-breathing centre with its bright and airy dome that stands out on the Abuja skyline nestled next to the Commonwealth Peoples market, a constructed space of round African huts and thatched roofs. In the distance, all the flags of the Commonwealth fly. At the market,

representatives of 53 nations have been a breathing cultural exchange. The old Commonwealth hand, Derek Ingram, is captured taking a breather at the market, while a young Nigerian watches the photographer.

At another stall, two images – one strikingly modern; the other tradition - of Nigeria’s cross river state organisation are reflected in the afternoon sunshine. The Young woman tending the stall sits exactly as the image of her forebear in a natural photograph: their hairstyles,

ear-rings almost exactly matching. The chair of the forum, Nkoyo Toyo, has cut a notable image, all week long as she’s ensured that this assembly of Commonwealth peoples goes according to plan.

# So Who’s Been Saying What

“DEMOCRACY AND development are the twin engines of social progress. The two are inseparable. A country cannot achieve long-term growth if its citizens are not free to play their full part in the democratic process,” Don McKinnon, Commonwealth Secretary-General.

“IDEALLY, THE Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group should also look at the more substantive aspects of democratic functioning of its member states including the value they place on protecting and promoting human rights,” – Clare Doube, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (New Delhi).

“WE FIND it bizarre that such a privilege is extended to the business

community but not to civil society,” – Martin Sime of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations on heads of government meeting with a business forum, but not a peoples forum.

“WHILE Commonwealth meetings are valued as places where countries meet on more equal terms than in other international fora, at the same time civil society has less opportunity to engage than in other fora,” letter from the advisory committee of the Commonwealth Heads of Government to the secretariat.

“TOO DECENT, too tame, too timid,” – Mo Arigbode of the Coalition for Popular Development Initiatives, speaking about civil society in the Commonwealth.

“TODAY, EXCEPT in a handful of countries, governments enthusiastically retain and indeed embrace these symbols of supremacy as there has been no intervening change from colonial to constitutional governance.

“OFFICIAL SECRETS acts, preventive detention and anti-terrorist legislation, criminal defamation laws, overly indulgent contempt and privilege laws, media and privacy regulations and restrictive civil service rules all remain very much intact,” – excerpt from “OPEN SESAME, Looking for the right to information in the Commonwealth”; the Human Rights Initiative

“COMMONWEALTH LEADERS meeting in Abuja should not give

Nigeria a free pass on human rights. Even though military rule has ended, Nigerians still cannot express themselves freely without fear of grave consequences,” – Peter Takirambudde, executive director of the Africa division of Human Rights Watch.

“WE JUST don’t have enough say in what goes on. We are working with the people, and governments that take action in the name of the people must listen to us,” – Silam Hassan, Malaysian trade unionist on extending the role of civil society in the Commonwealth.

“THERE IS no job opportunity for our youths and that is why there is restiveness and crisis in the area. When the youths have job, they will raise families and think of providing for them

and use their time to do meaningful things,” – Pastor Timon Uhudu of the Rivers Economic Development Forum, on the youth of the Niger Delta.

“SHOW SOME civility,” – Nkoyo Toyo, to a policeman in the Terra Viva office.

“I NO listening; no listening.” – Traffic policeman stopping journalists getting to the International Convention Centre, venue for the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting.

“THE COMMONWEALTH is very weak at criticising member governments. Take Swaziland, for example, it has no freedom of association,” – Annie Watson of the Council of Trade Unions

## It’s Another Abuja Outside the City

By Ferial Haffajee

ABUJA, WHERE the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting begins today, is a boom city. Grand buildings housing government offices and corporate investors dot the skyline, their gleaming glass windows glinting in the hot sun.

Double-lane roads cut through the hilly terrain.

It is Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo’s glory town – the place that symbolises his new and prosperous Nigeria.

On the outskirts of town, the road network is being rapidly expanded with blue graders smoothing out new tar. Suburbs of grand, new clustered homes points to the development of a wealthy middle-class. A sign offers “affordable swimming pools”.

Yet half an hour out of town, Abuja’s secrets surface and the costs of “Africa’s fastest growing city” are tallied.

This is where the Gbagyi people were removed to from the Seventies when the oil boom made the government decide to transplant the federal capital from the chaos of Lagos to its pristine new home of Abuja. The city needed potable water and the Gbagyi were moved from the sight of what is now the Usma Dam.

Ahead of the Commonwealth meeting on Thursday, they cut a sight of a forgotten people, damned by all the poor development practices this meeting is trying to root out. It will hear about the nexus between democracy and development and in particular about “people-centred” and “pro-poor” development. Defined by the Commonwealth expert group as development which focuses on the poor, strengthens human capabilities and moves beyond the trickle-down approach, it is an approach that will get a lot of attention at the CHOGM meeting.

The experience of the development Abuja shows how large the gap is between development policy and practice.

Take the dam. It supplies water to Abuja some 30 kilometres away, but the villages of the Jigo, Peyi and Pnabwara communities are dry. In Jigo, yellow and green plastic containers line the dry

mud tracks. Women walk down to the Usma River to get water.

Says community leader Ishaya Jigo, “Water, for whose course we were resettled, we can’t see it to drink for many more years to come. This is very incredible, but that is the truth. The entire city thirty kilometres away and beyond has been served with potable water from our home and yet us home people can’t see it to drink. What an irony of circumstances? What a giant paradox.” The ironies abound. While they may not have water, the area does have a connection to the mobile phone network, showing how unsynchronised development can lead to huge imbalances. Jigo now has cutting edge technology but no water.

Jigo is angry, but around the rest of his kinfolk, there is a sense of hopelessness. Peoples’ eyes look

Just outside Abuja you begin to see what people are paying for the development of the city centre

vacant; the cows are bone-thin; the children bloated with malnutrition. It is the antithesis of the bustle, the prosperity and the hope that Abuja city represents. When the city was started in 1996, its architects planned it as if it was a clean slate.

Resettlements were scheduled and compensation budgeted for, but corrupt officials ended up paying the residents between N500 and N3000.00, many hundreds of thousands less than was budgeted for.

The community knew the money had been stolen, but there was no recourse to justice. One measure that heads of government have to pay attention to, says the expert group report is access to state information, a crucial piece of the puzzle in stamping out corruption. Young men and women look bored in the village – many can’t get to university because they are effectively stateless and in the federal system.

# Netting Them Young

By Ferial Haffajee

YOUNG PEOPLE want representation at the Commonwealth Heads of Government, the youth forum which has met in Abuja since November 25 has resolved. Presenting its final statement to the peoples' forum yesterday, the forum also said "we strongly believe that links with young people's civil society organisations from suspended Commonwealth nations should be maintained". It added that "Mechanisms should be created to ensure the appropriate selection and safety of any representatives at Commonwealth for a."

Young people constitute over 50 percent of the Commonwealth population. "A large percentage of them are adversely affected by unemployment, poverty, HIV/Aids and illiteracy," said the report of the Commonwealth expert group on development and democracy.

The youth forum also wants member governments to substantially increase funding available for HIV/Aids programmes targeted at young people. Methods include: "...youth friendly information centres and introducing HIV/Aids education into the school curriculum in all countries".

Across the world, young people are being alienated from politics, government and policies – a trend the Commonwealth needed to turn around in its sphere of influence, said the forum.

# Just Who is a Nigerian

By Zarina Geloo

TO THE outside world Nigeria has always been regarded as one entity. Yet in reality, it is a country characterised by a diversity of cultures and religion which has called into question the volatile issue of citizenship.

Professor Oga Steve Abah told a meeting of the Commonwealth Peoples Forum that, the Nigerian Popular Theatre Alliance (NPTA) and its research centre, Theatre for Development Centre (TFDC) at Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, had undertaken research to understand why Nigeria, with such vast resources, remained a nation with millions of people suffering political exclusion, voicelessness and poverty. It was these research findings that he presented to the forum on encountering citizens: meanings and perceptions of citizenships in Nigeria.

He said citizenship was a central identity for most people in Nigeria who tended to associate more with their ethnic and religious group and their communities and clan, than with Nigeria as a nation, because they could not point to what being Nigerian had done for them and so felt little sense of belonging to the nation.

No matter how long people stayed in a community or land, if their ancestors were from some place else, they were always considered 'outsiders' and could not own land, attain scholarships for their children or even get a government position in that locality, Prof Abah said.

"While the constitution says every citizen shall have equal rights, obligations and opportunities before the law, the reality is that citizenship is shaped by exclusions, discrimination and class divisions."



Research showed that most Nigerians were denied their rights to expression, information, to demand basic services and participate in the decision-making processes of government. Many Nigerians in rural areas were also unaware of their rights and entitlements as citizens.

Prof Abah explained that the situation was further exacerbated by religious fundamentalism in Nigeria. The recent upscaling of Shari'a law and customary courts in many northern states had created a new layer of complexity for citizenship and governance in Nigeria. People found themselves religious minorities in their communities, state or region and struggled in vain for their rightful share of national resources.

Tackling the problem of citizenship in Nigeria required dramatic change in

the practices and policies of government. Prof Abaha said, "The people of Nigeria are calling for their rights to good governance, democracy, participation and accountability."

In his view, inclusive citizenship required government to implement policies and procedures to combat unequal access to citizenship rights. Prof Abah proposed that the definition of state citizenship within the constitution be changed to one that granted equal rights to all Nigerian citizens residing in the state, regardless of ancestral links to land or other sources of state and power. This could be achieved through awareness raising programmes for government officials and citizens that made it clear that all people had equal rights. Also, constitutionally inscribed rights to call for redress in the case of rights being denied based on ethnicity, religion, gender or other sources of bias.

Prof. Abah said advocacy had to begin at the community level where the tension between youths and traditional leaders had to be tackled.

"A lot of the problems we have to go beyond a generational gap," he says. "Youth feel they are not part of the decision making process and become embittered adults. This polarizes the ethnic crises which is passed down from generation to generation."

The TFDC which Prof Abah works with, is taking the first step in what he calls a 'national reconciliation' by organizing a forum in Jos, with legislators and local government authorities to see how best to engender a more cohesive Nigeria. "If we can legislate against ethnic discrimination we will have gone a long way in diffusing some of the crises that occur in our country," Prof Abah said.

## Around Abuja

NOW THAT the leaders are here, so are the guns. No, nobody is blaming those carrying them, or the governments they carry them for. But after days of seeing people connect with people, they come as reminder how out of place they are, and how tragic is the need now to carry them.

Suddenly people needed security clearance to walk into the Yar'Adua centre just to meet other people, and to do their bit to make everyone's lives a jot better. It is tragic equally that no one can complain. Terrorism is around, and these days too many in Abuja are targets who need to be protected.

But surely, if only as a symbolic gesture, the leaders could over four days have found 15 minutes to meet representatives from the people's forum. Forget the people's forum a moment, the leaders would have gained from it. Evidence that you can be successful and still not know what's good for you.

...

ALL ARE agreed that Abuja is rather different from Lagos, but opinions are divided whether that is a good or a bad thing.

Many visitors who came into Abuja via Lagos have told tales of being ripped off there to varying degrees. The Abujians are nothing less than hugely warm and friendly. Lagosians are no less so, but that city does seem to have a larger slice of that 'other' population.

But Lagos, Abuja, wherever, many of us who came in from outside have found great warmth for Nigerians who have found so much warmth for us.

...

SOME DEROGATORY acronyms for NGOs:

Gongo, government-owned NGO; Bongo, business owned NGO; Dongo, donor owned NGO; Bringo, briefcase owned NGO; Mongo, my own NGO; Fingo, family owned NGO; Rongo, royally owned NGO.

...

ADIEU TO our readers. If our little four-page paper has been occasionally half-decent, it owes so much to your support these past few days.

And our apologies to all people whose activities we could not cover, or not cover as much or as well as they would have liked. It was not for lack of a desire to do so, or from lack of recognition of the importance of those activities. We were stuck with limitations of time, space and selves.

If you liked us, our apologies also that we could not all keep company over the last two days of the forum. We hope that at least some of us will find common ground to meet again.



## Today in Abuja

<p><b>9.00-11.00</b> <b>Intra-Commonwealth Arms Transfer</b> Protea Hotel Osun Room Organised by Organisation of Commonwealth United Nations Association</p>	<p><b>Preventing and Eradicating Human Trafficking and Child Labour</b> Protea Hotel Afe Babalola Room Organised by Human Trafficking and Child Labour</p>	<p><b>14.00-17.00</b> <b>Dialogue on Indigenous Rights in the Commonwealth</b> Protea Hotel Imo Room Organised by Commonwealth Policy Studies Unit</p>	<p>Organised by Centre for Constitutional Governance</p>
<p><b>9.00-13.00</b> <b>Meeting organised by Child Rights Enforcement and Development Agency</b> Protea Hotel FCT Room</p>	<p><b>9.00-17.00</b> <b>Justice for Peace Programme</b> Yar'Adua Centre Boardroom Organised by the British Council <i>Invitation only</i></p>	<p><b>14.00-17.00</b> <b>Transition from War to Peace: the Sierra Leone Experience</b> Protea Hotel FCT Room Organised by Sierra Leone Association of NGOs (SLANGO) and Civil Society Movement – Sierra Leone</p>	<p><b>14.00-17.00</b> <b>Engendering Development and Democracy Workshop</b> National Assembly Organised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association <i>Invitation only</i></p>
<p><b>9.00-13.00</b> <b>CSO Consultation on the UN Civil Society Panel</b> Yar'Adua Centre Auditorium Organised by CIVICUS</p>	<p><b>9.00-17.00</b> <b>Education for All in the Commonwealth</b> Yar'Adua Centre Meeting Room B Organised by Africa Network Campaign on Education for All (ANCEFA)</p>	<p><b>14.00-17.00</b> <b>Conflict Resolution and Peace-Building</b> Protea Hotel Delta Room Organised by Prime Peace Project</p>	<p><b>16.00-18.00</b> <b>General Discussion Informing Interface</b> Commonwealth Market Hut 12</p>
<p><b>9.00-13.00</b> <b>Launch of Commonwealth Countries League Alumni</b> Yar'Adua Centre Meeting Room A Organised by Commonwealth Countries League</p>	<p><b>10.00-12.00</b> <b>Marketing Strategy for Poverty Eradication</b> Commonwealth Market Hut 12</p>	<p><b>14.00-17.00</b> <b>Gender and ITC – a Gendered Analysis of the Development of a Framework for ITC Policy</b> Yar'Adua Centre Auditorium Organised by ABANTU for Development</p>	<p><b>17.30-19.00</b> <b>Forum Reports – meeting organisers report on the outcomes of their meetings</b> Yar'Adua Centre Auditorium Organised by Commonwealth Foundation</p>
<p><b>9.00-13.00</b> <b>Citizens and Governance</b> Yar'Adua Centre Meeting Room C Organised by JDPC/GADA</p>	<p><b>11.00-13.00</b> <b>Aligning with Nature to Rediscover Natural Habits</b> Protea Hotel Imo Room Organised by Institute of Human Rights / Humanitarian Law</p>	<p><b>14.00-17.00</b> <b>Tracking Corruption: the Role of Access to Information and Whistleblowing</b> Yar'Adua Centre Meeting Room A Organised by Zero Corruption Coalition</p>	<p>PERFORMANCES AT THE COMMONWEALTH MARKET</p> <p><b>12.30-13.30</b> Book Recital – Abuja Literary Society</p>
<p><b>9.00-17.00</b> <b>NGO Policy on Corruption in Nigeria</b> Protea Hotel Joshua Room Organised by Nigerian Network of NGOs</p>	<p><b>14.00-16.00</b> <b>Ensuring Grassroots Participation in Democracy</b> Yar'Adua Centre Exhibition Room Organised by Lift Above Poverty Organisation</p>	<p><b>14.00-17.00</b> <b>People's Participation in Nation-Building</b> Yar'Adua Centre Meeting Room C</p>	<p><b>14.00-15.00</b> Comedy Act by Francis Duru Maliki Dancers from Bornu State</p> <p><b>16.00-20.00</b> Play: <i>Toy Soldier, Boy Soldier</i> Parade of Textiles – Fashion Designers Association of Nigeria</p> <p>Madojazz Ensemble (South Africa) Abuja Playhouse: <i>Bombshell</i></p>
<p><b>9.00-17.00</b> <b>The Rights of a Child: a Grassroots Approach to</b></p>			