

PILOT. 15. 12. 62

Task For Obande

MR J. C. Obande is the new Minister of Establishment. We congratulate him on his promotion because he deserves it. We think that his first task—an important one at that—is to examine the urgent matter which is bedevilling the smooth operation of the Solicitor-General's Department.

IT is the issue of Mr Adebisi, the Acting Deputy Solicitor-General cum Acting Solicitor-General, about whom we have said before that others have stronger claims to the post he occupies.

LET us run down the list :

Mr Nonyelu, DPP; Adedipe, Deputy DDP; Oki, Principal Crown Counsel; Wheeler, Principal Crown Counsel and Humphrey, First Parliamentary Counsel. All of these officers have been in the profession for at least ten years. Four of them are older than Mr Adebisi in the Legal Department, and all of them are more experienced.

MR Miller has acted even before independence as both Deputy Solicitor-General and Solicitor-General. Mr Humphrey is a rare bird indeed. He drafts all our laws being more expert than the experts.

OUR puzzle is that Mr Adebisi, who has not mustered ten years of post call experience—a requirement for officers who climb into the Solicitor-General's chair—has now been placed above the six other officers.

WE think that the rights of the six have been wronged, and this has made them spiritually depressed to the extent that they might not be putting in their best efforts. The work of the department will suffer in any such situation.

POSSIBLY, this situation results from an oversight or a genuine mistake. But the Minister must look into the matter and see that justice is done. Our interest is to see that justice and fair play reign supreme. This must also be the interest of the Minister. We only need to remind him that the matter is urgent.