

HE'S THE NEW MAN

Nigerian born Rotimi Adebari speaks at the County Council offices in the Portlaoise, Ireland, recently. Ireland elected its first Black mayor last Thursday, the latest sign of how rapid immigration is changing the face of this once all-White nation. Adebari, a Nigerian who arrived in Ireland seven years ago as an asylum-seeker, was elected unopposed to lead the council of Portlaoise, a bustling commuter town west of Dublin.



Miss. county accused of violating Whites' rights

Black Democratic leader is culpable

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—A federal judge has ruled that a majority Black county in eastern Mississippi violated Whites' voting rights in what prosecutors said was the first lawsuit to use the Voting Rights Act on behalf of Whites.

U.S. District Judge Tom S. Lee ruled late Friday that Noxubee County Democratic Party leader Ike Brown and the county Democratic Executive Committee "manipulated the political process in ways specifically intended and designed to impair and impede participation of White voters and to dilute their votes."

The Justice Department accused Brown of trying to limit Whites' participation in local elections in violation of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, written to protect racial minorities when Southern states strictly enforced segregation.

"Every American has the right to vote free from racial discrimination," said Wan J. Kim, assistant attorney general for the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division.

"The court's ruling is another victory in the department's vigorous efforts to protect the voting rights of all Americans," Kim said.

Noxubee County is a rural area along the Alabama line with a population of about 12,500, of whom 70 percent are Black.

Brown did not immediately return calls Saturday from The Associated Press seeking comment. The Justice Department alleged in the 2006 lawsuit that Noxubee County Blacks tried to shut Whites out of the voting process.

Brown had claimed the Justice Department was misconstruing as racial intimidation his attempts to keep Republicans from voting in Democratic primaries.

Lee, who presided over the case without a jury, gave attorneys on both sides until July 29 to file briefs suggesting how to end the

discrimination. The case was a civil matter carrying no criminal penalties, but defendants who violate Lee's final order could face contempt of court charges and fines, prosecutors said.

Ricky Walker, who is White and the county's prosecuting attorney, believes Brown recruited an opponent to run against Walker in 2003 simply because of Walker's race.

"We're glad to be getting it over with so we move on and get to the point where maybe we can just have fair, honest, impartial elections here and just go about our business and not have to go through all this circus to get an election done," said Walker, who was a Justice Department witness during the trial in January.

Walker, who is unopposed this year, said the lawsuit created some unrest in the county "that we were getting past... Blacks and Whites starting to support people on their ability to fulfill the job rather than just strictly a political or racial basis."

The judge said there was a pattern to Brown's efforts to keep all Whites out of the county's Democratic Party, including holding party caucuses in private homes rather than public voting precincts and inviting only Blacks to the meetings.

Lee said he could not find that the defendants had a specific animosity against White people.

"Brown, in fact, claims a number of Whites as friends," Lee wrote. "However, there is no doubt from the evidence presented at trial that Brown, in particular, is firmly of the view that Blacks, being the majority race in Noxubee County, should hold all elected offices, to the exclusion of Whites; and this view is apparently shared by his allies and associates on the NDEC, who, along with Brown, effectively control the election process in Noxubee County."

Trice Edney new editor of NNPA's News Service

Special to Sentinel-Voice
SEATTLE (NNPA) - Award-winning Black Press veteran Hazel Trice Edney has been named editor-in-chief of the National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service and Blackpressusa.com.

Edney, a 20-year reporter for the Black Press who has served as NNPA's Washington correspondent for the past seven years, was tapped to lead its news service during the organization's annual summer conference in Seattle late last month.

"The one thing that I do know about her is that she loves the Black Press," NNPA Foundation Chair Dorothy Leavell told the audience during the announcement at the gala Merit Awards ceremony. "I am so very pleased that she has been approved by our board. She comes with a great deal of dedication, a history of hard work, and we are extremely pleased. We are expecting and I don't think we will be disappointed in the many things she will bring, including new ideas and

"There are far too many causes that are yet to be pled, ...we intend to escalate the progress of freedom, justice and equality for African-American people."

— Hazel Trice Edney
Editor-in Chief of the NNPA News Service



greater coverage through our wire service."

Edney says she intends to work hand in hand with member publishers around the nation to solidify a unified vision not unlike that of Samuel Cornish and John B. Russwurm 180 years ago.

"There are far too many causes that are yet to be pled," said Edney. "Through our member newspapers, our websites and any other media and technology that we make available to us, we intend to escalate the progress of freedom, justice and equality for African-American people. There is no better way to do this than to challenge unjust causes and

to empower our millions of readers with knowledge to speak for themselves."

Edney succeeds George E. Curry, who resigned April 1 after six years as NNPA Editor-in-Chief.

"I have had some of the most incredible editors," said Edney. "Not only George, but also Raymond H. Boone Sr., who is my chief mentor and father in the Black Press. They have helped to prepare me for this moment."

Edney, who started as a reporter with the *Richmond Afro-American* on March 16, 1987, and subsequently reported for Boone's *Richmond Free Press* for eight

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