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USF St. Petersburg Student New Member of Nigerian Government

St. Petersburg, Fla. - July 9, 2003

USF St. Petersburg graduate student Oluwaniran Patrick Malaolu has been nominated to a high-ranking cabinet position in a regional government of the West-African country of Nigeria.

Malaolu has been named for the position of Commissioner for Information by the Executive Governor of Ogun State, Otunba Gbenga Daniel. Malaolu will publicize government activities, initiatives and programs. He will be one of 13 cabinet-level ministers in the Daniel administration which took office May 29.

Malaolu will suspend his studies in the Journalism Studies program at USF St. Petersburg to accept the position. He was editor of the newspaper Diet when he was arrested by the dictator Sanni Abacha. He was tortured and imprisoned for 15 months until his release in 1999 shortly before democratic rule was restored to Nigeria.

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