



Identity Politics in Nigerian Newspapers' Coverage of Boko Haram

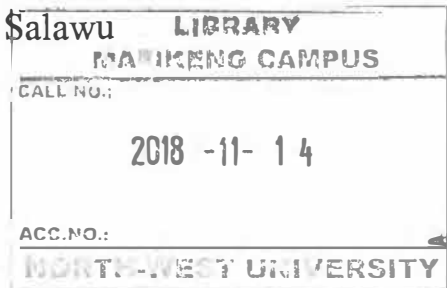


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Thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Communications in the Faculty of Humanities at the North-West University, Mafikeng Campus.

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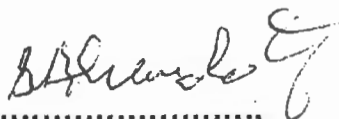
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DECLARATION

I declare that this doctoral thesis titled: “**Identity Politics in Nigerian Newspapers’ Coverage of Boko Haram**” is solely my own, and has not been submitted to any other institution for the purpose of obtaining a degree or qualification, and all sources cited are acknowledged by comprehensive referencing.

Signature: -----

Oyewo Ayanfeoluwa Oluwatosin

ABSTRACT

Since the inception of the Boko Haram insurgency, the Nigerian media have been pivotal in reporting on the activities of the group as well as attempts by the government to curtail them. Previous studies have focused on the relationship between the group and the Nigerian media. However, this study investigated how identity politics characterized by the North-South polarization of the Nigerian society is reflected in how selected Northern and Southern-based national newspapers report on Boko Haram activities with a view to establishing how these contributed to the framing by the selected newspapers' various reports of the activities of the sect.

The study employed the theories of critical political economy, representation and framing. The study was further premised on the circuit of culture within the broad field of cultural studies, as well as Johnson's (1986) hypothesis that existing general theories within the field of cultural studies express different sides of the same complex process. Four newspapers were selected using the purposive sampling technique. The selected newspapers include: *Daily Trust*, *Leadership*, *ThisDay*, and *Vanguard* newspapers. *Daily Trust* and *Leadership* newspapers are based in the North while *ThisDay* and *Vanguard* newspapers are based in the South. The study drawing on textual analytic tools, adopted Fairclough's (1995) model of Critical Discourse Analysis and Framing analysis. A total of forty-three lead stories and four editorials were selected for analysis. The lead stories with the variable "Boko Haram" were selected from the four newspapers published on week days. It also employed in-depth interviews. Four editors of these newspapers were selected using the purposive sampling technique. The study is basically qualitative in nature, consequently, data were analysed using explanation building technique.

The following dominant frames were identified in the selected newspapers using the inductive approach to framing analysis: war frame, fear and threats frame, blame and responsibility frame, and punishment frame. Also, the North-South divide was not visible as it was in prior conflict situations because the Boko Haram insurgency threatens the existence of the Nigerian society including the media (Both Northern-based and Southern-based). Furthermore, after the April attacks on the media, the frequency of the lead stories in the newspapers dwindled. In addition, the newspapers were careful about their choice of words and were particular about attributing the information presented to sources. Two main themes were identified from the findings of the in-depth interviews- Social responsibility and Professionalism.

The study concluded that identity politics (evidenced by the North-South divide of the Nigerian society) was not a factor in how the selected newspapers cover/report on Boko Haram activities. Boko Haram is a national issue not a North versus South issue. As a result, the newspapers were guided by nationalism and their respective perceptions of professionalism.

Key words: Boko Haram insurgency, North-South Polarisation, Newspaper framing, Nigerian Media and Identity Politics

Word Count: 448

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to the greatest people ever - my parents, Professor and Pharm. O. O. Oyewo. Mere words cannot capture the immense gratitude that I owe you both. Thank you for your encouragements, for believing in me, for the endless prayers, and financial supports. I love you very much, and God bless you.

I also dedicate this thesis in honour of my late grandmother, Deaconess C. M. Oyedemi. Your exemplary life and simplicity will always be an inspiration to me. Thank you for your relentless prayers and Sunday phone calls. Rest well!!!

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND RESEARCH CONTEXT

1. 1. Background to the Study

Nigeria can be described as one of the most divided states in Africa because of its “complex web” of politically salient identities and history of chronic and seemingly intractable conflicts and instability (Osaghae & Suberu, 2005: 4). Since independence in 1960, Nigeria has experienced periods of turbulence that have threatened efforts aimed at democratisation and stability (Ahmadu & Yusuf, 2010; Okpanachi, 2010). These periods of turbulence historically range from the coup d'états of 1960s to 1990s; the civil war (1967- 1970); the Maitatsine riots of the 1980s and early 1990s; the 1993 June 12 electoral crises; Odi genocide; Sagamu bloody riots of 2000; the Niger-Delta perennial crisis; intra and inter communal conflicts; kidnappings and political assassinations, among others (Eze & Agwanwo, 2014: 11). The high point of these periods was the civil war in the late 1960s, shortly after Nigeria's independence (Osaghae & Suberu, 2005).

However, since the transition from military rule to civilian rule in 1999, Nigeria has further witnessed an increase in conflicts especially those orchestrated and festered by non-state armed groups (Ahmadu & Yusuf, 2010; Okpanachi, 2010; Isola & Akintayo, 2012). Nigeria has experienced and is still experiencing several forms of conflict in both the Northern and Southern regions of the country (Hamid & Baba, 2014: 14). Some of these conflicts include the activities of non-state armed groups such as: MASSOB (Movement of the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra), IPOB (Indigenous People of Biafra), MEND (Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger-Delta), and Niger-Delta Avengers in the South; and the Fulani Herdsmen and Boko Haram in the North. These conflicts usually have ethnic, political, communal and religious

undertones (Omenugha, 2004; Okpanachi, 2010; Gambo & Omirin, 2012; Shuriye, Adeyemi & Huud, 2013). While conflicts occur in the Northern and Southern regions, there is a particularly high occurrence in the North (Omenugha, 2004; Okpanachi, 2010; Gambo & Omirin, 2012; Shuriye, Adeyemi & Huud, 2013). Conflicts are more manifest in the North because of its relatively monolithic character, which can be traced back to the first Jihad by Uthman Dan Fodio and colonialism (Ajayi, 2012: 104).

In Northern Nigeria, there have been conflicts with varying causes; however, many of these conflicts have a predominantly religious dimension (Lewis, 2002; Gambo and Omirin, 2012). This is largely due to the fact that two-thirds of the population are Muslim (Schact, 1957; International Crisis Group, 2010). According to Ajayi (2012), Northern Nigeria has always been a very fertile ground for religious-based conflict because of the inability of the ruling elite to separate politics from religion (Ajayi, 2012: 104). There have been conflicts over Islamic reforms, colonial legacies and western influences, local ethnic, religious and regional perceptions of Islamic authenticity (Falola, 1998; Casey, 2008). Some of these conflicts include: the maitatsine riots of the 1980s, the Sharia conflicts of the early 2000s, the Miss World riots of 2002, the Danish cartoon riots of 2006, and the more recent Fulani Herdsmen crises and the ongoing Boko Haram insurgency (Tijjani, 2012; Hamid & Baba, 2014). The non-state armed group, Boko Haram, has been waging and fighting a religious war by seizing

Boko Haram, is an Islamist movement which strongly opposes man-made laws and western indoctrination with a strong ideological base of implementing Sharia laws, and the subsequent total Islamisation of Nigeria¹ (Adesoji, 2010; Okemi, 2013; Akinfala, Akinbode &

¹ In an effort to solve complex problems with simple answers, soon after the shift from military to civilian rule in 1999, twelve Muslim majority states of Nigeria instituted Sharia law in order to adjudicate criminal and civil matters for Muslims (Thomson, 2012: 50).

Kemmer, 2014; Eze & Agwanwo, 2014). To achieve its aims, the group “manifests its activities in bomb and gun attacks on police stations, army barracks, prisons, mosques, churches as well as some public institutions, and prominent personalities” (Ajayi, 2012: 105). The group has further expanded its prime targets to include taxi parks, markets, media houses and journalists (Ekwueme & Obayi, 2012: 1). According to Roelofs (2014):

Since the emergence of the group, the actions of the group has [sic] expanded in geographic scope, number of casualties, and political and social consequences. Several different phases have developed, with substantial shifts in the leadership of the group, their methods, their communications, and their international links and outlook. Accordingly, the number of academic and media reports on the Boko Haram insurgency has exploded (Roelofs, 2014: 118).

Since its inception in 2009, the media have been dominated by daily reportage of attacks by non-state armed group, Boko Haram, as well as the government’s security measures to combat them (Isola & Akintayo, 2012; Ubhenin, 2012). Because the media thrive in crisis reportage especially when it results in increased readership, they respond to terrorist attacks by non-state armed groups with undisguised zeal and enthusiasm (Ekwueme & Obayi, 2012: 4). Thus the media and non-state armed groups enjoy a somewhat symbiotic relationship (ibid: 4). On the one hand, the non-state armed group needs the media for publicity to establish a culture of fear in the society. On the other hand, the media enjoys an increase in its audience by reporting on the activities of the non-state armed group. Unfortunately for the Nigerian media, in spite of their unofficial role as Boko Haram’s publicity managers, the relationship between the media and the group has been anything but symbiotic (ibid,: 5).

The media have not been left out of the series of attacks by the group in which “the group has not hidden its distrust and disdain for the Nigerian media” (Ekwueme & Obayi, 2012: 4). On

September 28, 2011, the group killed Isah Zakari, a reporter with the Nigerian Television Authority and Bernard Akogwu, a photographer with Channels Television (Ekwueme & Obayi, 2012: 5). Also, on April 26th, 2012, the group attacked the offices of *Thisday*, *The Moment*, and *Daily Sun* newspapers in Abuja and Kaduna in coordinated bomb attacks (Ekwueme & Obayi, 2012: 1). These attacks against the media have placed press freedom at risk and could as well jeopardize the blooming freedom of expression (Isola & Akintayo, 2012: 2). According to the group, these attacks against the media are to serve as warnings to the media against their perceived lack of objectivity and blasphemy in media representations of the group (Ekwueme & Obayi, 2012; Premium Times, 2012).

In Nigeria, it is expedient to ask how the media have performed in upholding objectivity especially during conflict situations (Hamid & Baba, 2014: 17). The emergence of Boko Haram in Nigeria “presents a number of challenges to media practitioners whose primary responsibility is to ensure objectivity and accuracy in news dissemination” (Ojo, Tsebee & Owolabi, 2014: 155). To these authors, “objectivity is seen as a feature that has become compromised because of the power play in Nigeria’s media ownership” (ibid: 155). The media in Nigeria have been accused of contributing to the escalation of conflicts and tension in the country through prejudiced reporting based on religious, political, ethnic and cultural biases (Ayodele, 1988; Omenugha, 2004; Akpan, Ering & Olofu-Adeoye, 2013; Salawu, 2013; Hamid & Baba, 2014). These perceived biases have subjected the journalistic profession to critical condemnation and criticism (Ojo et al., 2014: 155). In light of these arguments, it becomes pertinent to investigate whether these perceived biases influence the way and manner selected newspapers report on the activities of Boko Haram.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The decision to undertake this research arises from three major issues: First, a claim made in 2013 by Nigeria's President, Muhammadu Buhari, that the previous government granted amnesty to the non-state armed group of the South, Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger-Delta (MEND) and deployed the military to curb the activities of their Northern counterpart, Boko Haram. This difference in reaction, he claimed was unfair to the North and was due to the fact that a Southerner was in power (Point Blank News, 2013). This buttresses the argument that the prevailing view in southern Nigeria is that Boko Haram is the proxy of the North geared towards discrediting the government of a southern-Christian president (Mustapha, 2012 cited in Malangwa, 2014: 58). Based on this argument, the study seeks to investigate whether this prevailing view about Boko Haram activities in the south is replicated in the southern newspapers as opposed to the northern newspapers.

The second issue that informs the study is the "attacks on *Thisday*, *The Moment*, and *Daily Sun* newspapers as well as the assassination of journalists by Boko Haram as warnings to the media in Nigeria against biased representations of the group" (Ekwueme & Obayi, 2012; Premium Times, 2012). Media coverage of conflicts, particularly those orchestrated by non-state armed groups such as Boko Haram, "has become increasingly dangerous, with a large number of journalists and other media personnel killed" (Saul, 2008: 99). In Nigeria, a sizeable number of journalists and media professionals have been harassed, intimidated and murdered in the discharge of their duties since the emergence of the Boko Haram insurgency (Oyewo & Oyewo, 2016). This has created an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty resulting in self-censorship by journalists and media organizations thereby weakening the freedom of the press (White, 2007: 14). Thus this study examines how these attacks on journalists and the media impact on the selected newspapers' reportage of Boko Haram activities.

The third issue is the ethnic divide in the media by journalists and other media practitioners which comes to the fore during periods of crises (Ayodele, 1988; Omenugha, 2004; Bonde, 2005; Salawu, 2013; Hamid & Baba, 2014). The Nigerian media narrate stories and comment on conflicts based on the ethnicity of the individual journalists and publishers, as well as the location of the media headquarters (Uduak, 2000; Salawu, 2013). In Nigeria, the location, production and publication of newspapers is dominated by the South particularly the 'Lagos-Ibadan' axis of South-Western Nigeria (Jibo & Okoosi-Simbine, 2003; Ojo, 2003; Bonde, 2005; Okwori & Adeyanju, 2006; Ibraheem, Ogwezzy-Ndisika & Adepoju, 2015). This has led to the cultivation of a deep-rooted world view of Southern Nigeria and the resultant reproduction of prejudices and stereotypes against Northern Nigeria (Ojo, 2003; Bonde, 2005). Okwori and Adeyanju (2006) argue that the "emergence of *Daily Trust* newspaper in Northern Nigeria is helping to break the concentration of newspapers in the Lagos- Ibadan axis" (2006: 27). This study therefore seeks to investigate how selected Northern and Southern newspapers report on the activities of the non-state armed group, Boko Haram, based on the North-South divide of the Nigerian society.

1.3. Research Aim

The aim of this study is to investigate if and how the North-South polarization of the Nigerian society is validated in the media through newspaper coverage of non-state armed group, Boko Haram activities.

1.4. Research Objectives

The following are the specific objectives this study seeks to achieve:

1. To evaluate how newspapers frame Boko Haram activities in their coverage.

2. To investigate how the North-South divide is legitimised in newspaper coverage of Boko Haram activities.
3. To assess the extent to which attacks against the media influence media coverage of Boko Haram activities.
4. To ascertain the influence of media ownership and management structures in the coverage of Boko Haram activities in Nigeria.

1.5. Research Questions

To achieve the research aim and its attending objectives, the following are the questions that drive this study:

1. How do *Thisday*, *Vanguard*, *Daily Trust* and *Leadership* newspapers frame Boko Haram activities in their representations of the group?
2. How is the North-South polarization of the Nigerian society reflected in the selected newspapers' coverage of Boko Haram activities?
3. To what extent have the Boko Haram attacks on certain media organizations influenced the selected newspapers' coverage of Boko Haram activities?
4. To what extent do media ownership and management structures influence the coverage of Boko Haram activities in Nigeria?

1.6. Significance of the Study

The significance of this research is that it will form part of the ongoing academic discussions of the relationship between the media and non-state armed groups especially in relation to the coverage and representation of Boko Haram (Asogwa, Iyere & Attah, 2012; Ekwueme & Obayi, 2012; Nwabueze & Ebeze, 2013; Hamid & Baba, 2014; Ojo et al., 2014; Omego, 2014). The aim of this researcher, however, is to approach the discussion based on the

North-South polarization of the Nigerian society. The research attempts to contribute to the debate on reporting conflict by providing a platform raising academic discussion on providing a balance in theory and practice while reporting sensitive issues of national security and the issue of media polarization from the classroom. This research also attempts to connect the academic world with the professional by bridging the gap between theory and practice of journalistic principles through re-orientation via periodic refresher courses for Nigerian media practitioners.

The findings of this research in practical terms could be beneficial to journalists and newspaper/media organizations by prompting a re-evaluation and revamping of existing journalistic principles and practices especially in relation to sensitive issues such as the reportage of conflicts and violence in the society. It could also be beneficial to the government and security agencies by enabling them to re-think the way that they deal with journalists and media operators particularly when it relates to issues of “national security” (there are instances where journalists have been arrested and manhandled on suspicions of being in cahoots with Boko Haram).

1.7. Thesis Structure

The study comprises eight chapters. The breakdown of each chapter is described as follows:

Chapter One: Introduction and Research Context: This chapter discusses the research context and provides a historical, social and political background to the study. It also includes the statement of the problem, the overall research aim, research objectives, research questions, and the significance of the study.

Chapter Two: Literature Review and Conceptual Framework 1: Identity Politics and Conflict: This chapter and the next one constitute a review of relevant literature. This chapter discusses the global perspective of what identity politics entails and how it results in conflicts. It

also touches on conflicts caused by non-state armed groups. This chapter also discusses how identity politics plays out in the Nigerian society via the North-south divide. It further discusses how the salient identities within the Nigerian society result in conflicts especially those orchestrated by non-state armed groups. The chapter also discusses the Boko Haram Insurgency.

Chapter Three: Literature Review, Conceptual Framework and Empirical Foundations:

The Media and Conflicts: This chapter discusses the role of the media in the reportage of conflicts. It further explores the relationship between the media and non-state armed groups. The chapter also examines the Nigerian media landscape as well as the role the media has played in conflict situations. The chapter further explores the relationship between the Nigerian media and non-state armed groups particularly Boko Haram. The chapter also reviews previous research that are similar in scope and methodology to what this research intends to achieve.

Chapter Four: Theoretical Framework: This chapter discusses the theoretical foundations of the study. The study is primarily influenced by the circuit of culture modelled by Hall (1997). Using the circuit of culture as a framework, the study is informed by the critical political economy, representation, framing, and press theories.

Chapter Five: Research Design and Methods: This chapter discusses the research methodologies, sampling procedures, study population, data selection and analysis that inform the study. The study is underpinned by the qualitative research methodology and adopts in-depth interviews as well as textual analysis to gather data.

Chapter Six: Data Analysis and Discussion of Findings: This chapter presents and discusses the findings of the textual analysis of the newspapers as well as the responses of the in-depth interviews.

Chapter Seven: Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations: This chapter summarizes and concludes the study. It also provides recommendations for further study.

1.8. Conclusion

This chapter has served as an introduction into what this study entails. This has been achieved by giving background knowledge of the events that led up to the study. It discussed the issues that inform the study in the statement of the problem. It also presented the overall research aim, the research objectives as well as the research questions that drive the study. The significance of the study was also stated. Lastly, the chapter gave a brief chapter- by- chapter description of the thesis structure.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK:

IDENTITY POLITICS AND CONFLICTS

2.1. Introduction

This study investigates how identity politics is reflected in Nigerian newspaper coverage of Boko Haram activities vis-à-vis the North-South divide of the Nigerian society. This chapter is the first of two literature review chapters. The primary concern of this chapter is to attempt a review of relevant literature as well as situate the study within a global context of identity politics and how it polarizes societies and leads to conflicts. The chapter is divided into five major sections. The first section discusses identity and identity politics from a global perspective. The second section discusses identity politics within the Nigerian context. The third section discusses the role that identities play in dividing societies and their escalation into conflicts. The fourth section discusses identity and conflicts in Nigeria paying attention to those conflicts caused by non-state armed groups. The final section gives a brief discussion on the Boko Haram insurgency.

2.2. Identity and Identity Politics: A Global Perspective

Identity is a universal concept in today's society. As a concept, it is very difficult to explain because of the complexity of its meaning (Golubovic, 2010: 25). There are several explanations/definitions by scholars about what identity is (Cerulo, 1997; Billig, 1998; Fearon, 1999; Howard, 2000; Jenkins, 2000; Weedon, 2004; Golubovic, 2010). Identity is a universal phenomenon, through which humans in all epochs define themselves as members of social groups (Billig, 1998: 81). It is also the yardstick by which individuals perceive themselves. Thus, identity has a double sense/meaning because it refers to both social categories and the sources of the individual's self-respect (Fearon 1999; Weedon, 2004; Golubovic, 2010). Identity is used in two different ways such as: a) a primordial concept that is conceived as a naturally given and

unchangeable entity; b) a socio-cultural, political or ideologically constructed collective sense of communal or personal identity (Golubovic, 2010: 26). According to Hale (2004), it is useful to treat the notion of identity as the set of points of personal reference on which people rely to navigate the social world they inhabit to make sense of the myriad constellations of social relationships that they encounter and to discern their place in these constellations, as well as to understand the opportunities for action in this context (Hale, 2004: 463). Thus identity is used to describe personal individuality, lifestyle, social position and status, bureaucracy and citizenship, as well as politics (Jenkins, 2000: 152).

While Identity plays a crucial role in different spheres of society, its significance in relation to politics has resulted in the emergence of the phenomenon known as identity politics. Identity politics is a term used in the social sciences and humanities to describe diverse phenomena such as multiculturalism, civil rights, violent ethnic and nationalist conflict in post-colonial Africa and Asia, and so on (Bernstein, 2005: 47). Identity politics can be traced back to the post-cold war era when the political gap was filled by assertions and denials of identity (Dryzek, 2005: 219). It is a by-product of primordial sentiments that refer to activities and social movements organized around certain societal categories (Bernstein & Taylor, 2013; Lenshie, 2014). It emerged from the social movements of the 1960s and 1970s, in which oppressed groups struggled for social recognition and equal political, legal and economic treatment based upon their “identities” (Bell & Entin, 2000: 3). Hale (1997) conceptualizes identity politics as “collective sensibilities and actions from a particular location within society, in direct defiance of universal categories that tend to subsume, erase, or suppress this particularity” (1997: 568). Simply put, it refers to the intricacies involved in the way that members of a society identify and perceive themselves.

There are several categories within which members of a society group themselves. These categories include but are not limited to gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, and religion. However, the most common categories of identity affiliations, particularly among scholars of societal conflicts, are ethnic and religious identities (Nzogonla-Ntalaja, 1999; Ross, 2001; Heilman & Kaiser, 2002; Reynal-Querol, 2002; Montalvo & Reynal-Querol, 2005; Dryzek, 2005; Simonsen, 2005; Otsby, Nordas & Rod, 2009; Madibbo, 2012; Lenshie, 2014).

2.2.1. Ethnicity and Religion as Primary Determinants of Identity

Of all identity categories, ethnic and religious identities are the most popular/salient and are usually at the centre of societal divisions/polarizations and conflicts in many countries of the world (Reynal-Querol, 2002; Otsby, 2008). This is because both religion and ethnicity are culturally patterned and rely on the social bonds of allegiance (Heilman & Kaiser, 2002). Ethnic identity as a concept is a derivative of the basic concept of ethnicity. Chandra (2006) defines ethnic identity as a subset of identity categories within a society in which eligibility for membership is determined by descent-based attributes (Chandra, 2006: 400). However, effectively defining ethnic identity depends on understanding the broader concepts of ethnicity and ethnic groups (Isajiw, 1992; Wan & Vanderwerf, 2009).² According to Isajiw (1992):

The ethnic group as a concept is the most basic from which the others (ethnicity and ethnic identity) are derivative. The ethnic group is ethnicity as a collective phenomenon. Ethnic identity refers to ethnicity as an individually experienced phenomenon. Ethnicity is an abstract concept which includes an implicit reference to both collective and individual aspects of the phenomenon (Isajiw, 1992: 411).

² Although Isajiw (1992) and Wan & Vanderwerf (2009) agree that ethnic identity cannot be defined without defining ethnicity, they differ in which concept comes first. Isajiw (1992) believes that the ethnic group is the most basic form from which the concepts of ethnicity and ethnic identity are derived (1992: 411). Wan & Vanderwerf (2009) argue that it is best to begin with defining ethnicity first, then ethnic identity and finally ending with ethnic communities/groups (2009: 2).

The concept of ethnicity can best be understood as a shared perception of belonging by groups of individuals based on traits such as: language, myths, territory of residence and appearance (Fox, 2001: 516). It is a dynamic and constantly evolving property of both individual identity and group organisation (Nagel, 1994: 152). It can also be described as a mediating reference point through which ethnic groups in multi-ethnic states with diverse human relations and values promote their group interests (Idowu, 2015: 29). Ethnicity is created and recreated as various groups and interests put forth competing visions of the ethnic composition of society (Nagel, 1994: 154). Isajiw (1992) describes ethnicity as having two dimensions- objective and subjective. The objective dimensions are those which can be observed as facts in the existence of institutions, including that of kinship and descent as well as in overt behavioural patterns of individuals (Isajiw, 1992: 411). The subjective dimensions refer to the attitudes, values and preconceptions whose meaning has to be interpreted in the context of the process of communication (ibid: 411). Therefore ethnic identity is a social construction that involves internal and external opinions and processes as well as the individual's self-identification and outsiders' ethnic designations (Nagel, 1994: 154).

Ethnic identity can be defined as a manner in which persons, on account of their ethnic origin, locate themselves psychologically and socially in relation to one or more social systems, and in which they perceive others as locating them in relation to those systems (Isajiw, 1992: 414). It can also be described as a set of personal points of reference, thick and thin, that involve what we call "ethnic" distinctions between people (Hale, 2004: 473). Jones (1997) defines ethnic identity as that aspect of a person's self-conceptualization which results from identification with a broader group in opposition to others on the basis of perceived cultural differentiation and/or common descent (Jones, 1997: xiii). Ethnic identity connects individuals through perceived

common past experiences and expectations of shared future ones (Ross, 2001: 157). It also entails a sense of common fate, including expectations of common treatment, joint fears of survival/extinction, and beliefs about group worth, dignity, and recognition (ibid.: 160). Isajiw (1992) identifies two aspects of ethnic identity- the internal and external. The external aspects refer to observable behaviour, cultural and social. The internal aspects refer to images, ideas, attitudes, and feelings. While both aspects are interconnected, they vary independently, for instance, a person may retain a higher degree of the internal aspect than the external (Isajiw, 1992: 414).

As discussed earlier, religion also plays a crucial role in the identification process (Mitchell, 2005: 5). Religious identity can be argued to be a social construct of the spheres of communication and socialization in which people are categorized based on their religious beliefs (Stewart, 2009; Jokhadze, 2014). Religion is one of the most powerful influences on identity and behaviour (Fox, 2001: 518). It is a powerful uniting and disintegrating force which constantly negotiates relationships among and between groups of people in the society (Lenshie, 2014: 157-158). In societies with significant religious presence or history, religion can form a cultural reservoir from which categorizations of self and other may be derived (Mitchell, 2005: 6). People who are highly identified with their religious groups not only share common beliefs but also, by definition, perceive their group membership as central to their self-concept, thus gaining a sense of personal or collective self-esteem from that membership (Ysseldyk, Matheson & Anisman, 2010: 61).

Religious affiliations often determine one's place in the social and political structure, and where this exists, religious identifications become deeply embedded in the society (Mitchell, 2005:5). Thus religion is not just a marker of identity, but rather, its symbols, rituals, and organizations

are used to boost ethnic identity (Mitchell, 2006: 1140). This is further buttressed by the assertion that religion is a potential aspect of ethnicity, as a result, both identities are intertwined in many societies (Fox, 2000; Heilman & Kaiser, 2002; Mitchell, 2006; Stewart, 2009). This interrelationship between ethnic and religious identities can be referred to as the ethno-religious identity. In many contexts there is a two-way causal relationship between religion and ethnicity, in which each can stimulate the other, rather than religion simply playing a supporting role to the ethnic centerpiece (Mitchell, 2006: 1137). According to Stewart (2009), there is a tendency for religious and ethnic affiliations to overlap in certain societies/countries (2009: 8).

2.3. Identity Politics in Nigeria

Nigeria is one of the most ethnically diverse nations in the world, with a population of more than 170million people and over 374 ethnic groups, and an amalgam of crisscrossing identities (Imam, Bibi & Abba, 2014: 1022). Accordingly, this diverse nature of the Nigerian society has made identification with the 'nation' a difficult task as many prefer identification with their identity groups rather than with the nation (Salawu & Hassan, 2011: 28). According to Akinola (2012), the national identity of Nigeria is a country divided between several identity groups that are constantly in conflict (Akinola, 2012: 2). As a result, instead of a national identity, what exists is a mixture of crisscrossing and recursive identities, of which ethnicity and religion are the most salient (Osaghae & Suberu, 2005; Imam et al., 2014). Thus ethnicity-based identity politics and religious cleavages have enveloped national consciousness in Nigeria (Osimen, Balogun & Adenegan, 2013: 84).

Ethnicity is generally regarded as the most basic and politically salient identity in Nigeria (Osaghae & Suberu, 2005: 8). It has been a major factor in the path of Nigeria's political development (Blench & Dendo, 2003: 6). Ethnicity as a form of identity predates the Nigerian

nation and has defined the scope of political intercourse in the country (Osimen et al., 2013; Nwankwo, 2015). On its own, ethnicity does not necessarily constitute a threat to the socio-political and economic development of a state, rather it is the negative employment of ethnicity, in which negative attitudes are expressed towards those perceived as outsiders that poses a threat to society (Idowu, 2015: 29). In Nigeria, ethnicity has manifested mainly as a negative phenomenon whereby people identify and perceive themselves first as members of a particular ethnic group before identifying as Nigerians (Akwaru, Udaw & Onimawo, 2013; Idowu, 2015). This seed of ethnic consciousness and division is rooted in Nigeria's colonial experience/legacies (Duruji, 2008; Nwankwo, 2015).

The British colonial style of administration in Nigeria emphasized the cultural distinctions of the various ethnic groups as the centre of political organization thereby providing a limited space for inter-ethnic interaction before the country's independence in 1960 (Duruji, 2008: 80). Thus after independence, the country has experienced a significant increase in ethnic competition because the various ethnic groups emerged from the colonial experience as the most stable unit of political action (Duruji, 2008). According to Okpanachi (2010), ethnic, regional and religious differences were prominent in conceiving and implementing social, educational and economic development policies and projects under the colonial administration (Okpanachi, 2010: 6). This, he further argues, warranted the nurturing and exacerbation of an "us" versus "them" attitude which pitched Northerners versus Southerners, and Muslims versus Christians (ibid: 6).

In Nigeria, religious identity ranks second to ethnicity in terms of political salience (Osaghae & Suberu, 2005: 10). Nigeria is not only a multi-ethnic society, it is also made up of diverse religious groups (Njoku & Njoku, 2013: 126). Religious identities in Nigeria are foregrounded by three religious groups: African Traditional Religion, Christianity and Islam. Of the three

religious groups, Christianity and Islam are the two major religious groups in the country. Thus Christian and Muslim identities have been the mainstay of religious differentiation in Nigeria (Okpanachi, 2010: 7). This is buttressed by the average Nigerian's proclivity towards defining themselves in terms of religion especially when everyone openly and fervently identifies with either Christianity or Islam (Okpanachi, 2010; Agbiboa, 2013; Afolabi, 2015; Omilusi, 2015).

While the debate about what identity is the most salient in Nigeria continues, many times, ethnicity and religion rarely exist or operate in isolation (Okpanachi, 2010: 8). Rather, they interact with one another as well as with other variables in complex and sometimes conflicting ways (Okpanachi, 2010: 8). Because of the nation's configuration, religious identity is usually intertwined with ethnicity in Nigeria (Salawu, 2009: 75). In many parts of the country, religious differences overlap and reinforce ethnic differences (Dowd, 2014: 154). This is evident in the North's inclination towards a religious identity as well as the South's proclivity towards an ethnic identity (Osaghae & Suberu, 2005; Ovienloba, 2011). It is the realization of this fact that the term ethno-religious identity has been coined to capture the coalescing of the boundary between ethnicity and religion particularly during moments of conflict and violence (Egwu, 2001 in Okpanachi, 2010: 8).

The ethno-religious identity in Nigeria has been used to differentiate the predominantly Muslim North from the predominantly Christian South (Osaghae & Suberu, 2005: 7). This differentiation underlies the North-South cleavage and sharpens the ethnic cleavages in the country (Okpanachi, 2010: 6). This explains why the North-South dichotomy in Nigeria is not only a product of ethnic groupings but also of religious identity (Ovienloba, 2011; Rufai, 2011).

2.3.1. North-South Polarization in Nigeria

Nigeria is a society polarized along acute diversities such as religion, culture, and language (Imam et al., 2014: 1042). This polarization is evident in the North-South divide. The North-South divide is a phenomenon in the Nigerian society that describes the persistent tensions, divisions and disagreements between the Northern and Southern regions (Oboh, 2010: 3). This divide refers to the different economic, political, and social structures which generate a specific level of development and explain the split between wealthy developed societies and the poor developing societies (Therien, 1999; Krueger, 2008). The North-South divide in Nigeria, fuels centrifugal politics and the struggle for power between the various groups, which remains a bane to national progress in the country (Akinola, 2012: 2).

Nigeria is riddled with a problem of an unequal North-South duality (Bello, 2012). In much of the news and discourse on Nigeria, the country is represented in sharp divisions between a 'largely Muslim North' and a 'predominantly Christian South' (Omilusi, 2015: 1). There is a clear distinction between North and South, with the North being the poorer, more rural and predominantly Muslim part of the country while the South, predominantly Christian, has a complex tribal structure, rich oil resources, and a westernized business sector (Bonde, 2005: 2). Based on Therien's (1999) assertion that the concept of a divide between the North and South has a considerable history, in Nigeria, the divide between the North and South "dates back to the colonial rule" (Bonde, 2005: 12).

2.3.2. Political and Historical Background of Nigeria

Identities have been significant in the Nigerian political and historical process, under colonial rule as well as in the post-colonial dispensation (Okpanachi, 2010: 6). Nigeria is a heterogeneous society of several ethnic nationalities created for economic convenience by colonial exigencies (Ebegbulem, 2011; Oduwobi, 2011; George, Shadare & Owoyemi, 2012; Brown, 2013; Osimen,

et al, 2013; Imam et al., 2014; Odeyemi, 2014; Tangban, 2014). Nigeria's historical and political background can be divided into three broad phases: the pre-colonial phase, the colonial phase and the post-colonial phase.

Prior to the advent of colonialism, the various ethnic groups that occupied the area later known as Nigeria were independent societies with political, social and economic autonomy (Ayua & Dakas, 2005; Odeyemi, 2014; Tangban, 2014). After the abolition of slave trade and the emergence of legitimate trade, British colonisation began officially in 1861 with the establishment of the colony of Lagos (Ayua & Dakas, 2005: 2). Thereafter, the British gradually spread their influence and established dominance over the different ethnic groups (Amoda, 1978; Lawal, 1978; Awe, 1999; Falola & Heaton, 2008; Sodipo, 2013). This resulted in the 1900 inauguration of three geo-political areas of administration- the colony of Lagos, Southern protectorate and Northern protectorate (Oduwobi, 2011: 20).

In 1906, the colony of Lagos and the Southern protectorate were merged into one administration known as the colony and protectorate of Southern Nigeria (Oduwobi, 2011; George et al., 2012). By 1914, due to economic reasons, Lord Frederick Lugard amalgamated the Southern and Northern protectorates into one political entity (Ebegbulem, 2011; Oduwobi, 2011; George et al., 2012; Brown, 2013; Osimen et al., 2013; Edewor, Aluko & Folarin, 2014; Imam et al., 2014). Thus creating a heterogeneous nation with a population of strangers called Nigeria (Ayua & Dakas, 2005: 2). Colonialism disrupted the already existing political, social and economic organisation of the different ethnic groups by introducing new elements that perpetuated separate ethnic identities (Awe, 1999; Davis & Kalu-Nwiwu, 2001; Sodipo, 2013; Tangban, 2014). As a result, the Southern and Northern protectorates developed along different political, economic and

social lines with mutual suspicion of each other (Tangban, 2014: 378). According to Iruonagbe (2009):

It was in the South of the country that Christian missionaries were most active in establishing schools. Due to the British policy of non-intervention in the North, the latter did not gain the benefits of western education. This resulted in a lasting and destabilizing dichotomy, and is firmly imprinted on the historical memory of Muslims. Nigerian Christians on their part, still harbor fears of political domination by the Northern Muslims (Iruonagbe, 2009: 155).

Because Nigeria was created without regard for ethnic coherence and compatibility, cultural differences as well as the timing, nature and extent of contact with the Europeans led to an imbalance in the development of the Northern and Southern regions of the country (Peshkin, 1967; Adebisi, 1998; Davis & Kalu-Nwiwu, 2001; Ebegbulem, 2011; George et al., 2012). This imbalance is a result of the divide and rule tactics of the Europeans- direct rule in the South and indirect rule in the North (Nnoli, 2003; Ebegbulem, 2011; Mohammed, 2014, AdibeNwafor & Ogbodo, 2015; Kur, Agudosy & Orhewere, 2015). This led to animosity between the two regions, intensifying ethnic and regional sectionalism (Nnoli, 2003: 3). As a result, after independence in 1960, mutual distrust and strong ethno-religious identities in both North and South prevented a true Nigerian identity from developing (Sodipo, 2013: 4). These identities have been both cause and effect of crises and violent conflicts in the country (Imam et al., 2014).

2.4. Identity, Polarization and Societal Conflicts

The study of identity-based conflicts is based on “the assumption of some degree of prior polarization in which individuals in one group make decisions on the basis of their fears about the intentions or the actions of the other group” (LeBas, 2006: 421). Societal polarizations arise from the interactions between members of different identity groups, in which group members show identification with each other and feel socially or ideologically separated from the

members of other groups (Esteban & Schneider, 2008: 132). Where polarization occurs, processes of inclusion and exclusion are intensified in a manner that all other social boundaries recede in importance while the cleavage around which the polarization is built becomes the dominant marker of social interaction (LeBas, 2006: 422), thus collapsing previously complex interactions between multiple actors into a simple battle between two (ibid: 422). According to Esteban and Schneider (2008), ideological, ethnic, economic or religious polarization between contending groups is a major source of conflict in many countries around the world (Esteban & Schneider, 2008: 131). These conflicts result from the lack of an external guarantor of peace between groups on either side of an identity boundary, from the breakdown of informal institutions that used to govern interactions across that boundary, or from the absence of civic engagement between groups (LeBas, 2006: 421).

In highly pluralized societies, some conflict on identity-based cleavages is typically to be expected (Varshney, 2007: 278). Where the lines of an armed conflict coincide with ethnic boundaries, the salience of ethnicity increases and all other identities fade in significance (Simonsen, 2005: 299). Therefore, violent confrontation along ethnic lines is the most apparent form of conflict in many countries (Caselli & Coleman, 2006: 1). This is because ethnicity is at the centre of politics in divided societies (Reynal-Querol, 2002: 29). Ethnic identity is particularly conflict-prone because it is based on fundamental factors like language, race, tribe, and so on. (Otsby, 2008: 147).

Although ethnicity and religion are both responsible for divisions and conflicts in societies, religion, more than ethnicity, discriminates and differentiates humans in a sharp and exclusive way, even more than belonging to a country (Reynal-Querol, 2002: 31). The extensive influence and control of religious organizations over adherents' behaviour inevitably leads to politicization

of religion which could potentially result in conflict (Stewart, 2009: 10). Thus, religion is more likely to generate violence than any other form of identity (Reynal-Querol, 2002: 32).

Neither ethnicity nor religion is perceived as being centrally concerned with politics, rather, it is politicizing them that has made them political instruments in society (Stewart, 2009). Although both ethnicity and religion are widely shared identities, they may potentially be called on to mobilize for political purposes, including for violent conflicts (ibid: 10). Thus identities do not by themselves lead to conflicts, rather, it is only when mobilization around identities occurs or they are politicized that they constitute the bases for conflicts (Osaghae & Suberu, 2005: 14). While purely ethnic or purely religious conflicts can reach the highest levels of violence, the mix of ethnic nationalism and religion is potentially among the most explosive recipes for conflict (Fox, 2000: 18). According to Idike and Eme (2015):

Ethnic and religious mobilization can often be found at the heart of political competition. As with all social cleavages; fault lines within societies form along these identities, creating opposing interests. These differences of interest, in turn, offer themselves to potential or occasionally violent conflict (Idike & Eme, 2015: 72).

2.4.1. Non-State Armed Groups and Conflicts

Non-state armed groups as perpetrators of identity-based conflicts have earned significant attention all over the world especially when they operate in societies where state legitimacy is weakened or under siege (Davis, 2009). Descriptions of what non-state armed groups are vary (Hofmann, 2006; Huber & Reimann, 2006; Bassiouni, 2008; Florquin & Warner, 2008; Davis, 2009; Krause & Milliken, 2009; Podder, 2013). However, for the purpose of this study the term non-state armed groups refers to a group of 'armed non-state actors involved in contemporary wars with a minimal degree of cohesiveness as an organization (to be distinguished as an entity and to have a name, to have some kind of leadership) and a certain duration of its violent

campaign' (Krause & Milliken, 2009: 203). Krause and Milliken (2009) conceptualize non-state armed groups as encompassing five different categories: (1) insurgent groups; (2) militant groups; (3) urban gangs and warlords; (4) private militias, police forces and security companies; and (5) transnational groups (Krause & Milliken, 2009: 204). This study is focused on the category of insurgent groups, some of which include: Aum Shinrikyo of Japan, Jemaah Islamiyah of Indonesia, Provisional Irish Republican Army, Islamic States of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Shabaab, Al-Qaeda, and Boko Haram.

Many of these non-state armed groups have as their ideologies plots to overthrow existing governments, as well as the establishment of Islamic states in their areas of operation. To achieve their goals, these groups employ a combination of physical, mechanical, biological and chemical weapons. Some of these groups also have external links across borders with one another. For instance, the Jemaah Islamiyah of Indonesia has been closely linked to Al-Qaeda (Baker, 2005). Nigeria's Boko Haram has also been linked to ISIL and Al-Shabaab.

2.5. Identity, Non-State Armed Groups and Conflicts in Nigeria

Nigeria has witnessed and is still witnessing several forms of conflicts in both the Northern and Southern divides. Ethnic and religious conflicts are the most recurring issues that have permeated the Nigerian landscape since the colonial period till date (Adetoye & Omilusi, 2015: 54). The unequal and differential treatment of ethnic groups during the colonial era created disparity and widened the political, social and economic gaps between Northern and Southern Nigeria (Ebegbulem, 2011: 82). Independence and the long years of military rule increased the existing gap of distrust and intolerance among the various ethnic and religious groups (Adetoye & Ornilusi, 2015). This led to the emergence of identity-based groups in several parts of the country, in which armed violence served as a means of achieving group objectives (Best &

Kemedi, 2005). Some of these early groups include: Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP), Oodua Peoples' Congress (OPC), Egbesu Boys, Bakassi Boys, and the Arewa People's Congress.

Many of these groups initially emerged as vigilante groups to challenge insecurity and injustice in the different geopolitical areas of the country (Best & Kemedi, 2005: 18). However, with the transition to democratic rule in 1999, Nigeria's conflict problems, particularly those perpetrated by these non-state armed groups, became exacerbated (Best & Kemedi, 2005; Nachana'a, 2015). Thus democracy and the 2000s ushered in an increase in the number of non-state armed groups who use violence to achieve their goals. These groups include: the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger-Delta (MEND), Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), Niger-Delta Avengers, the Fulani Herdsmen, and Boko Haram. The activities of these groups "manifest via riots, sabotage, assassinations, armed struggles, guerrilla warfare and campaigns for secession" (Nwankwo, 2015: 292).

While Nigeria has experienced several ethnic and religious conflicts in both the Northern and Southern parts of the country, there is a higher frequency of recurrence in the North (Tijjani, 2012; Idahosa, 2013; Adetoye & Omilusi, 2015). Some of the conflicts that have affected Northern Nigeria include: the maitatsine riots of the 1980s, the Sharia conflicts of 2000 and 2001, the Miss World riots of 2002, the Danish cartoon riot of 2006, and the more recent and ongoing Boko Haram insurgency (Tijjani, 2012; Hamid & Baba, 2014).

2.6. The Boko Haram Insurgency

The demand for and the implementation of *sharia law* by some Northern states, combined with the long history of politicization, fundamentalism, and revivalism spawned the rise and radicalization of Boko Haram (Malangwa, 2014: 63). Radical ethno-religious activities are not a

new phenomenon in Northern Nigeria. For instance, in the 1980s, the rise of the Maitatsine movement led to years of violence in the country (Cook, 2011; Walker, 2012; Agbiboa, 2013: 71). Boko Haram has a complex mix of identities which it strives to idealize (Igboin, 2012: 84). As an Islamic sect, the group believes that Northern politics have been seized by a group of corrupt, false Muslims therefore, it intends to wage a war against them and Nigeria as a whole to create a “pure” Islamic state ruled by Sharia law (Walker, 2012: 2). According to Agbiboa (2013), the bombings and shootings by the group has targeted Nigeria’s religious and ethnic fault lines in a bid to hurt the nation’s stability (Agbiboa, 2013: 65).

The Congregation of the people committed to the propagation of the Prophet’s teachings and Jihad (Jama’ atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda’awati wal-jihad) commonly known in Hausa as Boko Haram ³(western education and civilization is forbidden) is a non-state armed group based in Maiduguri in North-Eastern Nigeria (Ajayi, 2012; Ekwueme & Obayi, 2012; Thomson, 2012; Ubhenin, 2012; Okemi, 2013; Omego, 2014). It is one of the many non-state armed groups that exist in the world today. Boko Haram was founded by Mohammed Yusuf in 2001 as an indigenous group⁴, however, following the murder of its leader and founder in 2009, the group became a more powerful, popular and deadly Jihadist group (Adesoji, 2010; Njoku & Njoku, 2013; Akinfala et al., 2014; Eze & Agwanwo, 2014; Hamid & Baba, 2014). According to Usman (2013):

The violent approach to issues by the Boko Haram came to the limelight in 2009. The violence occurred in four Northern states: Bauchi, Kano, Yobe and Borno. The immediate cause of the violence was the attack on the group when members of the group were allegedly arrested for being in possession of bomb making

³ The group did not explicitly name itself Boko Haram, rather, the name arose from the external perspective of its beliefs which is that western education and westernization is sinful/ forbidden (Usman, 2013: 45).

⁴ At first, Boko Haram was involved mostly in fomenting sectarian violence, with its adherents participating in simple attacks on Christians using clubs, machetes, and small arms (Eze & Agwanwo, 2014: 18).

materials which were seized by the police. This led to reprisal attacks by the group on police formations in Bauchi, Kano, Yobe and Borno states. The violence was contained after the capture and killing of the group's leader, Mohammed Yusuf. However, Yusuf's death raised a new leader who increased the level of the group's attacks (Usman, 2013: 46).

2.7. Conclusion

This chapter discussed the concept/variable of identity politics from a global perspective as well as within the Nigerian context. It discussed ethnicity and religion as primary determinants of identity. To fully understand how identity politics operates/manifests in Nigeria, a discussion of the North-South dichotomy of the Nigerian society, as well as the political and historical background of the country was apt. The chapter further described the relationship between identities and societal divisions and conflicts, paying specific attention to divisions and conflicts caused by identity-based non-state armed groups, globally and in Nigeria.

Continuing from where this chapter ends, the next chapter discusses the media's relationship with identities, conflicts, and non-state armed groups.

CHAPTER THREE

LITERATURE REVIEW, EMPIRICAL FOUNDATIONS AND CONCEPTUAL

FRAMEWORK:

THE MEDIA AND CONFLICTS

3.1. Introduction

This chapter is the second of two literature review chapters. It continues from where the preceding chapter ends. This chapter, while reviewing relevant literature, focuses on the relationship between the media and conflicts vis-à-vis those conflicts perpetrated by non-state armed groups. This chapter is divided into six major sections. The first section discusses media coverage of conflicts from a global/general perspective. It also includes a discussion about the relationship between the media and non-state armed groups. The second section discusses the role that the Nigerian media plays during conflicts as well as their relationship with non-state armed groups. The third section discusses the relationship between the Nigerian media and Boko-Haram. The fourth section describes the Nigerian media landscape. The fifth section gives a brief profile on the selected newspapers: *Leadership*, *Daily Trust*, *Thisday*, and *Vanguard* newspapers. The sixth section discusses the empirical foundations of the study.

3.2. Media Coverage of Conflicts

The media can be viewed from two angles: on the one hand, as technological devices employed to disseminate information to a large and heterogeneous audience; on the other hand as a social institution, which functions among other social institutions like government, family, political institutions, and religious institutions (Ogwo, Asemah & Obidike, 2013: 57). Based on the preceding assertion, this study views the media from a social institution standpoint. Thus the media is a reflection of the society within which it operates and is very important in the provision of ideas and images, which people use to interpret and understand a great deal of their everyday

experiences (Eti, 2009; Ogwo et al., 2013). According to Ogwo et al. (2013), the media relate both structurally, through organizational ties and interaction, and culturally, by conveying information and impressions about society (2013: 58). Therefore, contemporary societies, especially developing countries, cannot downplay the significance of the mass media in creating social cohesion within the polity (Eti, 2009: 98).

The media construct particular views of reality by limiting the range of information, selecting sources strategically, and setting parameters for policy debates (Putnam & Shoemaker, 2007: 168). As a result, the media often attract controversy where news coverage tries to define the social meaning of events (Norris et al., 2003: 1). The media select events that are newsworthy based on their own set of values that give priority to violence and conflict in any form (Milosevska & Taneski, 2014: 56). Conflicts generate news and serve as the pillar upon which news reports stand (Awofadeju, Taiwo, Akinrosoye, Philip & Adeagbo, 2015: 10). These make the media more than a passive indicator of conflict conditions (Howard, 2002: 6).

The media play an essential but controversial role in managing conflict situations in society (Melone, Terzis & Beleli, 2002; Kempf, 2007; Eti, 2009; Awofadeju et al., 2015). On the one hand the media contribute positively to the de-escalation of conflict while on the other hand exacerbating conflict (Kempf, 2002; Kempf, 2007; Awofadeju et al., 2015). At the level of policy, the media are expected to report objectively, however, the very nature of conflict serves as a bane to objective reporting (Eti, 2009: 96). The way in which the media operate particularly when reporting on conflicts, war and violence often causes them to support those societal beliefs that maintain and escalate intractable conflicts (Kempf, 2002: 60). This is because journalists usually share the beliefs of the society to which they belong especially those beliefs which enable the society to cope with conflict (Kempf, 2002: 60).

Kempf (2002) identifies three areas where the media not only mirror the mindset of society but also serve as catalysts of conflict escalation by stimulating the process of conflict escalation beyond its actual level: 1) mis-coverage of escalated conflicts below the threshold of violence. As long as violence has not yet broken out, the media give little attention to conflicts. 2) The journalists' habit of interpreting conflicts within a win-lose framework. 3) The journalists' devotion to elites, which makes them especially vulnerable to official propaganda (2002: 70). Therefore, the significance of the media becomes obvious during conflict situations as it is often among the first elements of a society to be disrupted in an overt conflict (Howard, 2002: 3).

Covering conflict/violence is a media fare that can task the best of professional journalists (Nwankpa, 2015: 152). Reporting violence, especially those orchestrated by non-state armed groups, raises questions on how the media meet the journalistic standard of objectivity (Norris et al., 2003). According to Nwankpa (2015), the notion of objectivity is a highly contested one with divisions based on whether journalistic objectivity is feasible or not (2015: 153). Some have argued that journalistic objectivity is untenable and simply utopian while others believe it is an ideal that journalists should aspire to achieve (Alemoh & Ishima, 2015: 181). However, journalists such as Martin Bell and Christiane Amanpour, have argued that when reporting conflict or violence, objectivity is unrealistic and as a result, there is no need for it in conflict situations (Nwankpa, 2015).

3.2.1. The Media and Non-State Armed Groups

The media during periods of crisis and violence attempt to create stories, which explain and assign meaning to issues and events (Ryan, 2004: 363). In an attempt to present these stories to the audience, the media frame the stories by allocating symbolic values and meanings to certain events, which are then referenced in cultural and political interpretations (Papacharissi &

Oliveira, 2008). Media contents often contain and nurture stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination against certain social groups (Bissell & Parrott, 2013). These stereotypical and prejudicial media contents are often exacerbated by poor knowledge of the complexities within the society (Pate, 2015). This is usually more pronounced in media reportage of conflicts/violence especially those orchestrated by non-state armed groups.

In reporting on the activities of non-state armed groups, Norris et al. (2003) argue that media coverage is premised on two major questions: Firstly, does the media err on the side of the armed group, lending them legitimacy and credibility as well as unintentionally encouraging further incidents? Secondly, do journalistic conventions err on the side of governments due to over reliance on the interpretation offered by public officials, security experts and military commentators with news functioning to reinforce support for political leaders and their security policies? (Norris et al., 2003: 1). There is a struggle for media space by protagonists and antagonists in a conflict situation because all sides believe that they need the media to convey information as well as to influence public opinion and build support (Oso, 2017: 25-27).

The media and armed groups enjoy a somewhat symbiotic relationship (Ekwueme & Obayi, 2012; Mu'azu, 2015; Popoola, 2015). As a result, an understanding of media attention to violence/conflict perpetuated by non-state armed groups as well as the benefits these groups enjoy from media publications becomes apt. According to Mu'azu (2015), publicity is important to armed groups because they cherish media coverage to gain popularity for their actions and to keep reminding the public of their capabilities (2015: 115). The armed groups often rely heavily on the media to report their violent activities and often bask in the attention brought on them in national security discourses which are sustained by the reporting and analysis of their activities by the media (Isola & Akintayo, 2012: 2).

Also, the media benefit from their coverage of armed groups as it “has nurtured their commercial interests and also brought about some level of audience fixation to the media as the only platform for obtaining information about the activities of the armed groups” (Isola and Akintayo, 2012: 2). Curran, Gurevitch and Woollacott (1987) confirm this notion by arguing that media organizations exist in a symbiotic relationship with their environment, drawing on it not only for their economic sustenance but also for the raw materials of which their contents are made (1987: 69). This study therefore becomes apt because the Nigerian media have been accused by the non-state armed group, Boko Haram, as being biased against the group by portraying the “unsubstantiated view of government” (*Premium Times*, 2012).

3.3. The Nigerian Media and Conflicts (Non-State Armed Groups)

The plural Nigerian society has engineered journalists’ framing of news that creates borders along ethnicity and religion (Danaan, 2017: 78). This is probably because “people’s minds are conditioned to receive and interpret information from the ethnic, religious or other primordial sentiments” (Pate, 2015: 29). The challenge of insurgency and insecurity that has engulfed Nigeria has significantly brought out the strengths and weaknesses in the capacity of the media in covering and reporting issues of multiculturalism, diversity and conflict (Pate & Oso, 2017: 2). The media are often guided by sentiments and tend to ignore the implications of sensitivity in multicultural settings such as in Nigeria, thereby inadvertently exacerbating conflicts (Takwa, 2017: 10). Groups and sections of the country are commonly labelled and selectively reported based on stereotypes, incomplete facts or ignorance (Pate, 2015: 29). This is exacerbated by the poor knowledge of the complexities of the land and people in the different parts of the country (ibid: 29).

The heterogeneous nature of the Nigerian society is a contributing factor to the nature of the Nigerian media's ethnic colouration in news coverage (Ekeanyanwu, 2007: 69). This is reflected in their content, which often results in the inciting and escalation of conflicts, as well as encouraging rivalry and division among the different cultural groups in Nigeria (Kur, Agudosy & Orhewere, 2015: 129). This is buttressed by the argument that because almost all the print media are located in the South, news coverage relating to the North is often described with prejudice and vice versa (Ojo, 2003; Bonde, 2005; Okafor, 2013). The manner in which the media frame their reports goes a long way in determining public knowledge and perception of issues (AdibeNwafor & Ogbodo, 2015: 4).

From inception, the Nigerian press, worsened by the North-South divide, has always been influenced in its approaches and responses to issues based on the ideological disposition of owners and editors, the purpose of their establishment as well as the prevailing operating environment (Adesoji, 2006: 42). The Northern and Southern regions have newspapers that frame their ideological aspirations (AdibeNwafor & Ogbodo, 2015: 3). The Nigerian media through prejudiced and stereotypical reports accommodate and encourage the North-South divide (Jibo & Okoosi-Simbine, 2003; Adisa, Mohammed & Ahmad, 2015; Ibraheem, Ogwezzy-Ndisika & Adepoju, 2015; Kur et al., 2015). For instance, after the adoption of Sharia law by some Northern States, the tension and violence that followed was not a result of non-Muslims' complaints within the states but due to the editorial comments of Southern newspapers (Adisa & Abdulraheem, 2012; Salawu, 2013). This was further aggravated by media comments after a report by *Thisday* newspaper which stated that if the Prophet Mohammed had seen the Miss World beauty queens, he would have admired them and taken some of them as wives, which led to killings and arson (Salawu, 2013: 44-45). The Northern and Southern newspapers held

different views about the crisis; the Southern newspapers were critical of the Northern Muslims' reactions to the publication, while the Northern newspapers defended their actions and were only critical of the "irresponsible and insensitive journalism" of *Thisday* (Salawu, 2013: 44).

3.4. The Nigerian Newspaper Landscape

The Nigerian media/press precedes the Nigerian nation as a geographical entity (Oyewo & Olatunji, 2011; Adebani, 2013). It was borne out of the need to arouse consciousness among the people (Omoera, 2010; Adaja, 2012). The print media have also been remarkable for their mobilizational role in Nigeria's history (Adebani, 2013: 80). The Nigerian media have been a key factor in "the nation-building process of the country" (Adesoji, 2010: 23). From the agitations against colonialism, to the struggle against the dictatorship of the military after independence, and the fight against non-state armed groups, the Nigerian press is a force to be reckoned with. Adebani (2013) asserts that Nigeria has the largest, the most vibrant, and the most independent media in Africa, despite experiences of repression, and the existence of deep ethno-regional and religious fault lines (Adebani, 2013: 81).

The first newspaper in Nigeria was an indigenous language newspaper, *Iwe Irohin fun Awon Egba ati Yoruba* (Adesoji, 2010; Oyewo & Olatunji, 2011; Adebani, 2013; Olutokun, 2013; Amenaghawon, 2015). It was published in 1859 by Reverend Henry Townsend, an Anglican cleric in Abeokuta (ibid.). It began as a newsletter to get the locals to read as well as seek information through reading (Adebani, 2013: 81). Soon, the newsletter metamorphosed into a full-fledged newspaper that criticized the actions of the colonial government (Adesoji, 2010; Akinwale, 2010; Oyewo & Olatunji, 2011; Adaja, 2012). Consequently, the colonial government began to take action against the paper by enacting regulatory laws as well as lodging complaints with the Church of England (Oyewo & Olatunji, 2011).

Iwe Irohin fun Awon Egba ati Yoruba was succeeded by a plethora of newspapers also agitating against colonialism. Some of these newspapers include: *Anglo-African*; *Lagos Times*; *Lagos Observer*; *Mirror*; *Lagos Weekly record*; *Eagle*; *The Nigerian Pioneer*; and *West African Pilot* (Oyewo & Olatunji, 2011; Olutokun, 2013; Amenaghawon, 2015; Pate, 2015). These newspapers paved the way for the arrival of the nationalist press that fought for Nigeria's independence. However, in the thick of the anti-colonial struggle, many of the existing newspapers developed into political parties that championed anti-colonial campaigns and promoted the political relevance and ambition of their individual leaders (Pate, 2015: 13).

As a result, at independence, the press was divided along ethnic and regional lines with newspapers serving as mouthpieces for specific political parties and regions (Oyewo & Olatunji, 2011; Pate, 2015). For instance, the Northern region was ruled by the Northern People's Congress (NPC) and had as its mouthpiece, the *Nigerian Citizen* newspaper; the Western region was ruled by the Action Group (AG), with the *Nigerian Tribune* as its mouthpiece; the Eastern region was ruled by the National Council of Nigerian Citizens (NCNC) and had the *Nigerian Outlook* as its mouthpiece (ibid.). This divide has been argued to be a contributing factor in the collapse of the Nigerian first republic (Oboh, 2010).

While the media/Nigerian press was a strong force in the struggle for independence during the colonial era, the biggest growth of the Nigerian press took place during the military era as the military took far more repressive measures against the media (Bonde, 2005; Adesoji, 2010; Akinwale, 2010; Oyewo & Olatunji, 2011). In spite of these repressive measures, the Nigerian press became more vehement and militant in its anti-military campaign (Adesoji, 2006; Pate 2015). Amenaghawon (2015) argues that the Nigerian media has evolved through many

phases, through which the press has been known to play a critical role (Amenaghawon, 2015: 109).

After the torment/torture that the Nigerian press faced in the hands of the military, one would think that the democratic era would usher in a period of respite especially for the print media. Unfortunately, however, the democratic dispensation brought with it more troubles for the media. With the recent emergence of non-state armed groups, Nigerian newspapers have been caught in the crossfires between the State (Federal Government) and the armed groups. On the one hand, the groups accuse the media of erring on the part of the state. On the other hand, the state accuses the media of aiding and abetting the violent and treacherous acts of these armed groups. This has been the case especially when it comes to the issue of the non-state armed group, Boko Haram.

3.5. Boko Haram and the Nigerian Media

Since the emergence of Boko Haram, the group has gained a lot of media attention especially in the Nigerian media. The coverage of Boko Haram was massive, initially with some misunderstanding of the complexities of the issues which were evident in the media's expression of ignorance and in many cases, resorting to the perpetuation of stereotypes in the coverage of the group's activities (Pate, 2015: 20). Like most terror groups, Boko Haram had, from the onset, realized the essence of communication and utility of penetrating media channels for publicity, threatening the public and recruiting membership (Pate & Idris, 2017: 140). Since the group's inception, it has established itself beyond the reported to become the source of news to the media within Nigeria and beyond (Mu'azu, 2015: 121). According to Mu'azu (2015), Boko Haram resorts to making phone calls to journalists or media organisations asking them to report attacks carried out by the group as well as dictating how the group should be reported (2015: 123).

Amidst the insecurity and terror, the mass media reporters, in the course of discharging their fundamental functions of information gathering, packaging and dissemination of news, have suffered severe consequences (Ugular & Nwaodu, 2016: 178). On the one hand, the media face challenges in forms of threats, attacks on media offices and assassinations of individual journalists from non-state armed group, Boko Haram, for misrepresenting and working against the group. For instance, in 2011, Zakari Isa was killed by Boko Haram “on the suspicion that he fed security officials information about their activities” (Pate & Idris, 2017: 141); Akogwu Enenche was killed in 2012 while trying to interview bomb blast witnesses in Kano; the offices of *Thisday* newspaper in Abuja and Kaduna were bombed in 2012 by Boko Haram for an offence the newspaper committed against Islam a decade before (Oyewo & Oyewo, 2016). On the other hand, the media are accused of supporting the Boko Haram insurgents by the state. As a result, they are harassed, arrested and detained by security and intelligence services for reporting the activities of armed groups (Mu’azu, 2015: 117-118). Thus, the media is in a precarious position of being caught between a rock and a hard place when it comes to reportage of Boko Haram activities.

3.6. Selected Newspapers’ Profiles

Four newspapers, two from the North and two from the South, have been selected to investigate if and how the identity politics within the Nigerian society is replicated in their coverage of Boko Haram activities. The selected newspapers include: *Daily Trust*, *Leadership*, *Thisday*, and *Vanguard* newspapers. *Daily Trust* and *Leadership* newspapers are national newspapers situated in the North. *Thisday* and *Vanguard* newspapers are also national newspapers situated in the South.

3.6.1. Daily Trust Newspaper

Daily Trust newspaper is published by Media Trust Limited. It was established in 1998. It is the highest circulating newspaper in Northern Nigeria (Amenaghawon, 2015; Daily Trust Official Facebook Page, 2017). The newspaper aims at being “a world class media company that earns public trust with a mission to disseminate information for the good of all stakeholders” (*Daily Trust*, 2016). The *Daily Trust* newspaper is sometimes viewed as a voice of Northern Nigeria and for the promotion of Islam (Olatunji, 2012 cited in Amenaghawon, 2015). As a result, the newspaper has been in the cross-fire between the Federal Government and non-state armed group, Boko Haram, especially during the immediate-past President Jonathan’s administration (Reporters without Borders, 2012). On the one hand, it has been accused of being in cahoots with Boko Haram. On the other hand, it has been criticized by Boko Haram as being biased against the group.

3.6.2. Leadership Newspaper

Leadership newspaper was established in 2004 by Sam Nda-Isaiah. The newspaper initially began publication as a weekly paper, however, in 2006, *Leadership* became a daily newspaper (*Leadership*, 2017). The newspaper is a national paper symbolically embedded in the nation’s capital to stand up for good governance (*Leadership*, 2017). The newspaper hopes to achieve this aim by defending the interests of the Nigerian state through the pen (*Leadership*, 2017). The newspaper also, prides itself as the most influential newspaper in Nigeria (*Leadership*, 2017).

3.6.3. Thisday Newspaper

Thisday newspaper was founded in 1995. It is published by Thisday Newspapers Limited. The newspaper prides itself as Nigeria’s most authoritative news media available on all platforms (Thisdaylive.com, 2017). The newspaper is a public trust dedicated to the pursuit of truth and reason (Thisdaylive.com, 2017). The newspaper is infamous for its inciting report about Prophet

Mohammed and the Miss World beauty pageant in 2002 (Salawu, 2013). This has made the newspaper a target of Northern Nigeria and Boko Haram, which led to the bombing of the newspaper's offices in Abuja in 2012 (Ekwueme & Obayi, 2012; Premium Times, 2012).

3.6.4. Vanguard Newspaper

Vanguard newspaper is published by Vanguard Media Limited. It was established in 1984 by Sam Amuka, a former co-proprietor of *Punch* newspaper. *Vanguard* newspaper started out as a weekly newspaper on June 3rd, 1984, but became a daily newspaper on July 15th, 1984. The newspaper aims to serve the people through unflinching commitment to free enterprise, the rule of law and good governance (vanguard, 2017).



3.7. Empirical Foundations

The relationship between non-state armed groups and the media has received scholarly attention all over the world particularly when it relates to the issue of media coverage of non-state armed violence (Norris et al., 2003; Ryan, 2004; Bhatia, 2005; Chermak & Gruenewald, 2006; Rohner & Frey, 2007; Papacharissi & Oliveira, 2008; Powell, 2011; Bissell & Parrott, 2013; Musa & Yusha'u, 2013; Owala, Indede & Mohochi, 2013; Nevalsky, 2015; Al-Majdhoub & Hamzah, 2016). However, Powell (2011), Musa & Yusha'u (2013), Owala et al. (2013), Nevalsky (2015), and Al-Majdhoub & Hamzah (2016) form the empirical foundation for this study because they are similar in scope and methodology to what this research intends to achieve.

➤ Powell (2011)

Powell (2011) investigated how selected U.S media frame 11 terrorist activities that occurred in the U. S between October 2001 and January 2010 following the September 11 2001 attacks. Using framing analysis as the primary research method, the research revealed a pattern of media coverage that perpetuated a culture of fear of Islam by a Christian nation thus replicating existing social ideologies informed by the religious identity of the American society. Also, the research

exposed differences in coverage of terror activities perpetrated by non-Muslim Americans and those perpetrated by Muslims with international ties to known terrorist organisations. Terror acts orchestrated by American citizens were labelled “domestic terrorism” and were reported as less of a threat than “terrorism”. However, for terror acts perpetrated by non-Americans, the agent of “terrorism” is labelled as Muslim with connections to Al-Qaeda even before the terror act had been fully investigated or a motive had been established. The agent of “domestic terrorism” is described as an intelligent planner who is mentally unstable while the “terrorist” is described as an angry extremist. The motive for the domestic terror agent is based on an attempt to pass across anti-government messages, to create fear, and to seek attention. The motive for the international terror agent is portrayed as revenge for the killing of Muslims by the U.S. government, Islamic radicalism, and the urge to kill. The motives of the domestic terrorist were individualized, while the motives of the international terrorist are described as part of a larger plot against the United States. One of the objectives of this study is to investigate if and how certain existing ideologies within the Nigerian society are replicated in newspaper coverage of Boko Haram. Thus Powell’s (2011) research becomes relevant to this study because it exposes how media coverage of terror activities reinforces existing social ideologies within the American society.

➤ **Musa & Yusha’u (2013)**

Musa and Yusha’u (2013) analysed the international media coverage of the Boko Haram insurgency by focusing on the news coverage by CNN and Aljazeera English. They posed the following questions to guide their research: does the reportage of the Boko Haram insurgency take into consideration the local context of the conflict? Do international media correspondents have sufficient knowledge of Nigeria’s political landscape before making judgments about their

reports? Do the Nigerian media influence the reporting of the Boko Haram uprising in the foreign media? Is the ongoing global war on terrorism a factor in the way international journalists report the Boko Haram crisis? Using Critical Discourse Analysis as a research method, the research revealed proofs suggesting that the common trends in the reports were continuous peddling of misinformation, veiled stereotyping, presupposition, polarization and clear demonstration of poor knowledge of underlying issues in the Boko Haram crisis. This study by Musa and Yusha'u (2013) is relevant to this study because the findings buttress Pate's (2015) assertion that although media coverage of Boko Haram has been massive, it exposed the media's misunderstanding of the complexities involved in the Boko Haram insurgence through the perpetuation of stereotypes against the group.

➤ **Owala et al. (2013)**

Owala et al. (2013) researched how media bias influences the terrorism discourse in a Kenyan newspaper, *TaifaLeo*. To achieve their research goals, the Critical Discourse Analysis method was used to analyse language use in the newspaper. Like this research intends to, they were able to show how existing ideologies within the society were manifested in the news articles studied especially newspaper coverage of terrorism. The major finding of the research was the presence of bias in *TaifaLeo* newspaper's coverage of terrorist activities, which was caused by the discourse access and discourse structures used in the news articles. The discourse access referred to those actors whose opinions were presented as sources of information in the news. These actors include: reporters of the news, religious leaders, government security agents and politicians. The discourse access given to these actors contributed to the discourse structures which subsequently led to the creation of bias in the news. Owala et al's. (2013) study is relevant

to this research because it would help to provide an understanding of how the different sources in newspaper articles contribute to the way the news stories are presented.

➤ **Nevalsky (2015)**

Nevalsky (2015) examined variances in newspaper coverage of the January 2015 terrorist attacks in Paris, France and Borno, Nigeria. The aim was to use framing analysis method to explore how media coverage by selected U.S newspapers differ based on the geographic location of the country under attack. The research revealed a difference in coverage based on the level of development of the countries where these attacks took place, thereby perpetuating an already existing economic divide while reinforcing negative stereotypes. This research by Nevalsky (2015) is pertinent to this study because it would aid in establishing whether negative stereotypes about Northern Nigeria are reinforced in Southern newspapers' reportage of Boko Haram activities. It would also help to establish whether the Northern newspapers are more sympathetic towards the group based on the geographical location of the selected newspapers.

➤ **Al-Majdhoub and Hamzah (2016)**

Al-Majdhoub and Hamzah (2016) examined the nature of news coverage of ISIL by identifying the coverage and primary frames that were used to report on the activities of ISIL by CNN and Aljazeera between 2014 and 2015. Using content analysis and framing analysis as research methods, they explored CNN and Aljazeera's online news focusing on the amount of coverage devoted to ISIL, how both media organisations frame the beheading incidents by the group, and whether they differ in their coverage of ISIL. The results showed that while CNN had a larger number of articles, both media were very similar in their reportage of the beheading incidents. The only difference in coverage was that CNN presented a historical background as well as the group's ideology while Aljazeera's coverage assumed the audience's foreknowledge of the

group. The researchers state that CNN was more detailed because of the existing belief that the U.S was ISIL's first and primary target. Al-Majdoub and Hamzah's (2016) study would help this study to identify the frames within which both the Northern and Southern newspapers represent the Boko Haram insurgency. It would also help to establish whether or not prevailing views of the North or the South influence these frames.

3.8. Conclusion

This chapter discussed the media and its role in conflict situations with emphasis on conflicts orchestrated by non-state armed groups. It discussed how the media inadvertently exacerbate or diffuse conflicts/violence. The chapter further discussed the role of the Nigerian media in conflict escalation in the country. It also discussed the relationship between Boko Haram and the Nigerian media. Also, the chapter described the Nigerian media landscape and gave a brief profile on each of the selected newspapers. Lastly, the chapter discussed the empirical foundations of the study.

CHAPTER FOUR

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

4.1. Introduction

This study is premised on the circuit of culture located within the field of cultural studies. The circuit of culture was initially modelled by Johnson (1986) and later remodelled and simplified by Hall (1997). Johnson's hypothesis proposed that existing general theories express different sides of the same complex process (Johnson, 1987: 45). This is because meanings are produced at several different sites and circulated through several different processes or practices (Hall, 1997: 3). Therefore, the thrust of the circuit of culture is to "form a useful framework to consider cultural meanings of commodities holistically" (Leve, 2012: 2). Because of its simplicity, this study adopts the circuit of culture model as propounded by Hall (1997).

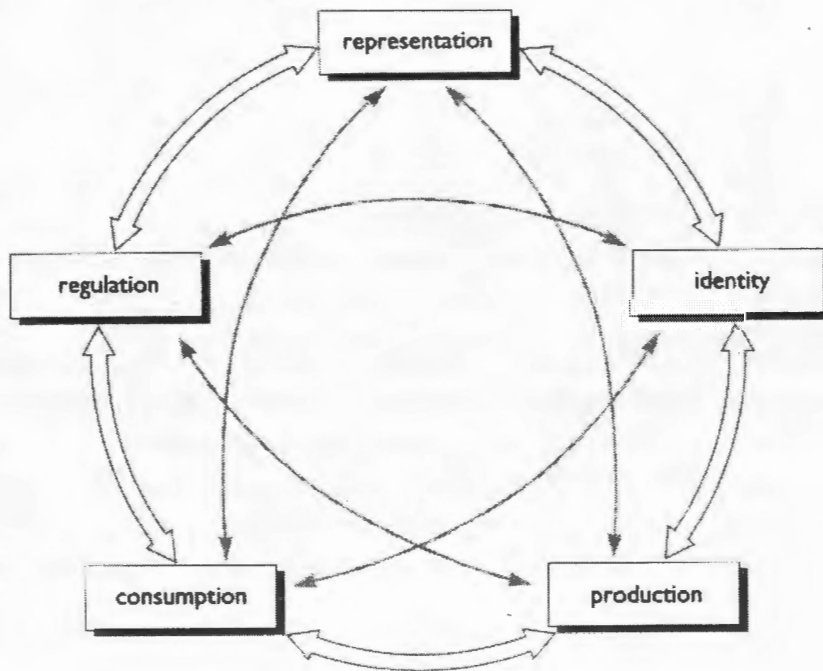


Figure 1: Circuit of Culture (Hall, 1997: 1).

The model identifies five interconnected/interrelated elements: representation, consumption, production, regulation, and identity (DuGay et al., 1997: xxx). The importance of the interrelationships between each element forms the basis of a comprehensive and rigorous approach to the analysis of cultural forms and processes (Leve, 2012: 3). Thus, by adopting the model, this research hopes to investigate how the different elements are enmeshed in media/newspapers' coverage of Boko Haram activities. According to DuGay et al. (1997) it does not matter where in the circuit you start, as you have to go the whole way round before your study is complete (1997: 4). As a result, the researcher, with the aid of the circuit of culture attempts to discover how the element of identity, validated through the North-South divide, influences the production and eventual representation of these identities. This chapter discusses the theoretical foundations of the study. It is divided into three sections. The first section discusses the critical political economy theory. The second section discusses representation and language. The third and final section discusses framing in the media.

4.2. Critical Political Economy

Traditionally, the main theoretical and conceptual tool for critically analysing media organisations and media processes in society has come from the political economy perspective (Jansen, 2013: 90). This is because the production of news in societies also involves organizational structure, which is not in isolation from the construction of meaning or identity (ibid: 91). This is evidenced in the circuit of culture. Political economy originally referred to a tradition of economic thinking that addressed the production, distribution and consumption of resources used to sustain human existence (Hardy, 2014: 4). The application of political economy to the media most always indicates a critical approach (Wasko, 2005: 40), hence, the need for a critical political economy theory.

The critical political economy theory is informed by the production, consumption, regulation and identity elements of the circuit of culture. As a theory, critical political economy rests on the drawing of links between the economic and other areas of social life as well as the recognition of the need for the re-conceptualization of the economic when such links are drawn (Browning & Kilmister, 2006: 4). In this study however, the emphasis is not on the economic, rather it is on “other areas of social life” such as identities characterized by the North-South divide of the Nigerian society. To understand the media’s role in society, it is essential to understand the relationships between media power and state power, as well as the media’s relationships with other sectors (Wasko, 2005: 38). A critical political economy approach sets out to show how the different ways of financing and organizing cultural production have traceable consequences for the range of discourses and representations in the public domain and for audiences’ access to them (Golding and Murdock, 1991: 15). It is based on a concern with the structural inequalities of production and the consequences for representation and access to consumption (Fenton, 2007: 7).

According to Jansen (2013),

There are three core issues that emerge from integrating the conventional political economy and cultural studies’ tradition of textual criticism. These issues include: firstly, the production of meaning as the exercise of power. This can be seen in the content-based analysis of news. Secondly, the political economy of textual analysis. The written word becomes an object of finance and is played out in news production through accruing finance and sales. Thirdly, the related aspect of consumption is important to both political economy and cultural studies analysis. This includes as an area of interest, the news production patterns of ownership (Jansen, 2013: 90).

Critical political economy places emphasis on the unequal distribution of power and is critical of arrangements whereby such inequalities are sustained and reproduced (Hardy, 2014).

Therefore, it is crucial to consider the functioning of the media within the larger sociological perspective of culture, social structure and social groups (Fenton, 2007: 26). It is in light of this that this study seeks to investigate how the perspectives of culture, social structures and social groups are reflected in the coverage of Boko Haram activities through the locations, belief systems, ownership and management structures of the selected newspapers. At this point, the study draws on the theory of representation.

4.3. Representation

The media are not only a powerful source of ideas, they are also one place where these ideas are articulated, worked on, transformed and elaborated (Hall, 1980: 90-91). In line with this argument, the study further draws on the theory of representation. Representation is a key moment in the circuit of culture (Hall, 1997: 1). Representation is the way in which meaning is somehow ascribed to the things which are depicted through the images or the words, which stand for what is being discussed (Hall, 1997: 6). Thus it is an essential part of the process by which meaning is produced and exchanged between members of a culture (Hall, 1997: 15). Meanings bridge the gap between the material world and the 'world' in which language, thinking and communication take place – the 'symbolic' world (DuGay, 1997: 10). Hall (1997) identified two systems of representation: first is the system by which all sorts of objects, people and events are correlated with a set of concepts which we carry in our heads; and the second is language through which the conceptual map is translated into certain written words, spoken sounds or visual images (1997: 17).

According to Dahlgren (1992: 13), texts foster specific ways of seeing the world, hinder other ways and even structure specific ways of relating to the text itself. Meaning is not inherent in things in the world, rather, it is constructed and produced (Hall, 1997: 24). This approach to

meaning/ representation is referred to as the constructionist approach. This approach is one of three identified by Hall (1997) - reflective⁵, intentional⁶, and constructionist. The constructionist approach recognizes the public, social character of language because it recognizes the fact that things do not mean of themselves, rather, they are constructed using the representational systems of concepts and signs (Hall, 1997: 25). Therefore, the consequence could be perceived in many cases as ideological. The power to signify events in a particular way is an ideological power (Hall 1982: 70). Hall further notes that by signifying events and defining a situation in a particular way, the media naturalize certain constructions and make them seem universal. It is at this point that the study is influenced by the framing theory of the media proposed by Entman (1993).

4.4. Media Framing

The concept of media framing is important because it offers an alternative to the objectivity and bias paradigm (Tankard, 2001: 95). According to Chong and Druckman (2007), the major premise of framing theory is that an issue can be viewed from a variety of perspectives and be construed as having implications for multiple values or considerations (2007: 104). Thus when highlighting some aspect of reality over other aspects, frames act to define problems, diagnose causes, make moral judgements, and suggest remedies (Kuypers, 2010: 301). Frames are produced and shaped by the political economy of the society (Miller & Riechert, 2001: 147). As a result, the power of frames subtly induces us to filter our perceptions of the world in particular ways; they make some aspects of our reality more noticeable than other ways (Kuypers, 2010: 300). Kuypers (2010) further argues that because our attention is highly selective, we do not

⁵ In the reflective approach, meaning is thought to lie in the object, person, idea or event in the real world, and language functions like a mirror, to reflect the true meaning as it already exists in the world (Hall, 1997: 24).

⁶ The intentional approach holds that it is the speaker who imposes his or her unique meaning on the world through language i.e. words mean what the author intends they should mean (Hall, 1997: 25).

often notice this process. Instead, we rely upon information that, in whatever form, is most easily accessible to us (Kuypers, 2010: 300). Frames thus act as central organizing ideas within a narrative account of issues or events that provide the interpretive cues for otherwise neutral facts (Ibid: 301).

Frames are likely to come into sharpest focus when we can compare similar news stories through contrasting media content (Schaefer, 2003: 93). This argument underlies the intent of this study to investigate how Northern and Southern newspapers frame Boko Haram activities. With regard to the media, framing is based on the assumption that how an issue is characterised in news reports can have an influence on how it is understood by audiences (Scheufele & Tewksbury, 2007: 11). This is because news frames represent persistent patterns of selection, emphasis, and exclusion that furnish coherent interpretation and evaluation of events (Norris, et al., 2003: 4).

The presentation of news is the task of the media, and therefore, they create the media frame (Gavilan, 2011: 4). Entman (1993) argues that an understanding of how framing works, helps to illuminate many empirical and normative controversies in the media (Entman, 1993: 55). Some of these include issues of objectivity and bias in the news. Journalists may follow the rules for “objective” reporting and yet convey a dominant framing of the news text that prevents most audience members from making a balanced assessment of a situation (Entman, 1993: 56). Entman further argues that because journalists lack a common understanding of framing, they frequently allow the most skillful media manipulators to impose their dominant frames on the news (ibid: 56-57). Thus media framing can also influence opinion through the choice of news sources (Jasperson, 2003: 114). Norris et al. (2003) argue that out of the myriad ways of describing events in the world, journalists rely upon familiar news frames and upon the

interpretation of events offered by credible sources to convey dominant meanings, make sense of the facts, focus the headlines, and structure the storyline (2003: 4).

Framing plays a major role in the exertion of political power, and the frame in a news text is really the imprint of power as it registers the identity of actors or interests that competed to dominate the text (Entman, 1993: 55). The selection of particular attributes of a story gives important information about the perspective of the media source (Jasperson, 2003: 114). These perspectives can make selected attitudes salient and shape public opinion differently in political contexts with varying coverage (Ibid: 114). According to Reese (1997), the news media play an important role in maintaining the authority of the political system. As a result, the news paradigm can be seen as operating within the larger ideological sphere particularly in relation to hegemonic processes (Reese, 1997: 424).

In other words, “the cultural traditions of both the society within which the journalist operates and their own professional class, can lead to potentially different presentations of reality” (Schaefer, 2003: 96). Thus the media establish what is normal and deviant by the way they portray people and ideas (Reese, 1997: 425). This justifies Omenugha’s (2004) argument that the Nigerian media’s ideological or cultural standings can be seen in their constructions of events during periods of conflicts and crises. These theories become apt in view of Boko Haram’s accusations that the “Nigerian media are biased and un-professional” in the reportage and framing of the group’s activities in Northern Nigeria (Premium Times, 2012).

It is important to note that the choice of the theories of Critical Political Economy and Representation are borne out of certain elements within the circuit of culture. The critical Political Economy theory was based on the identity, regulation, production, and consumption elements of the circuit of culture. The theory of representation was based on the representation

element of the circuit. The choice of the framing theory was based on one of the research questions which is to identify the frames within which the selected newspapers presented their coverage of Boko Haram activities.

4.5. Conclusion

This chapter presented a discussion of the theoretical underpinnings of the study. It is primarily informed by the circuit of culture model as propounded by Stuart Hall. Using the circuit as a framework, the chapter explored the critical political economy theory, which was informed by the production, consumption, regulation and identity elements of the circuit. The chapter further discussed the theories of representation and framing. This was to provide an insight into how certain issues are framed and presented by the media.

CHAPTER FIVE

RESEARCH METHODS AND METHODOLOGY

5.1. Introduction

This chapter discusses the research methodologies, methods including the process of data selection, sampling procedures, and the methods of data collection and analysis that underpin this study.

5.2. Research Design

This study sought to investigate how identity politics vis a vis the North-South polarization of the Nigerian society is validated and replicated in the media through selected newspapers' coverage of Boko Haram activities. To achieve the purpose of this research, the following questions were posed:

1. How do *Thisday*, *Vanguard*, *Daily Trust* and *Leadership* newspapers frame Boko Haram activities in their representations of the group?
2. How is the North-South polarization of the Nigerian society reflected in the selected newspapers' coverage of Boko Haram activities?
3. To what extent have the Boko Haram attacks on certain media organizations influenced the selected newspapers' coverage of Boko Haram activities?
4. To what extent do media ownership and management structures influence the coverage of Boko Haram activities in Nigeria?

In an attempt to provide answers to these questions, the study employed the qualitative research approach. This was to ensure a complex and detailed understanding of the contexts in which the research problem is situated (Creswell, 2007: 40). Qualitative researchers believe that there is no objective social reality, and all knowledge is constructed by observers who are the products of

traditions, beliefs and the social and political environments within which they operate (Frechtling, 2002: 44). This allows the researcher to subjectively construct interpretations and meanings based on realities encountered during the research process.

The researcher employed a combination of interviews and textual analysis methods. The textual analysis draws on a number of research methods such as Framing Analysis, and Fairclough's (1995) model of Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). The researcher equally employed the in-depth interview research method using semi-structured questions to investigate the roles that newspaper ownership and management structures play in the coverage of Boko Haram activities.

5.2.1. Framing Analysis

Devreese (2005) identifies two approaches to identifying frames in the news- the inductive and deductive approaches. The inductive approach refrains from analysing news stories with predefined news frames in mind (Devreese, 2005: 53). Rather, this approach analyses media/news content with the intention of identifying possible news frames (ibid: 53). However, studies that follow this approach have been criticized for relying on too small a sample and for being difficult to replicate (Hertog & McLeod, 2001). The deductive approach investigates frames that have been pre-defined and operationalized prior to the investigation (Devreese, 2005: 53). This approach is favoured over the inductive approach by scholars because it allows for the application of pre-defined and concise frames in analysis of news texts (ibid: 53).

For the purpose of this study, the inductive approach to framing analysis seemed appropriate. This is because the inductive approach allows for the inclusion of those frames that are present in the news content but are absent from the pre-defined frames favoured by the deductive approach.

5.2.2. Critical Discourse Analysis

This study adopted Fairclough's (1995) model of Critical discourse analysis (CDA) as a research method to provide answers to some of the research questions posed. This is because Fairclough's model of CDA provides a more accessible method of doing CDA than alternative theoretical approaches (Richardson, 2007: 37).

Using Fairclough's (1995) model of CDA as a method of textual analysis, there are three interconnected levels of analysis- textual, discourse practice, and sociocultural levels of analysis (Richardson, 2007). Thus, based on Janks' (1997) argument that CDA as a method allows for multiple points of analytic entry, this study approached/began the analysis of the lead stories and editorials from the textual level of analysis, while taking into account the discourse practice and sociocultural levels of analysis.



5.2.3. In-depth Interview

The primary advantage of the in-depth interview as a research method is that it provides more detailed information than what is available through other methods of data collection (Boyce & Neale, 2006). Based on the preceding statement, this study adopted the in-depth interview as a research method. This was to enable the researcher probe beyond the texts by providing an understanding of the intricacies involved in the choice of how to report on certain issues. This research method helped provide answers to the research question: to what extent do ownership and management structures influence the coverage of Boko Haram activities in Nigeria?

5.3. Study Period

The study covered the period of October 2011 to October 2012. This was significant because prior to April 2012, the media were very vocal in their critique of the non-state armed group, Boko Haram. In April 2012, *ThisDay* newspaper offices in Abuja and Kaduna were bombed to

serve as a deterrent to the Nigerian media on their representation of the group and its activities (*Premium Times*, 2012). Thus it became pertinent to study the news coverage of the group's activities six months before the April attacks, and six months after the attacks to investigate whether the attacks and threats against the media achieved the intended effect on the media. This period was also significant because it was one of the group's peak periods that included bomb attacks on Christians during the Christmas day mass.

5.4. Study Population

The study population included two broad categories: the newspapers, and the editors of the selected newspapers. The population for the newspapers included: *Vanguard*, *Thisday*, *Daily Trust*, and *Leadership* newspapers. These formed the population for the textual analysis. For the in-depth interviews, the editors of the selected newspapers form the population.

5.5. Sampling Procedure

The newspapers were selected using the purposive sampling technique. They were selected because they capture the North-South divide of the Nigerian society. *Vanguard* and *Thisday* newspapers were selected because they are both National dailies based in the South and owned by Southerners. In addition, *Thisday* newspaper had been on the receiving end of attacks from Northern Nigeria as well as Boko Haram. *Daily Trust* and *Leadership* newspapers were selected because they are headquartered in the North and are owned by Northerners. Also, *Daily Trust* has been in the cross-fire between the Federal Government and Boko Haram especially during the immediate-past President Jonathan's administration (Reporters without borders, 2012). On the one hand, it has been accused of being in cahoots with the non-state armed group, Boko Haram. On the other hand, it has equally been criticized of being biased against Boko Haram. *Leadership* is also a Northern-based newspaper that is circulated nationwide. It prides itself as Nigeria's most influential newspaper (Leadership Newspaper, 2016).

Some managing editors as well as editors who are members of the editorial team of *Vanguard*, *Thisday*, *Daily Trust*, and *Leadership* newspapers were also purposively selected. This was to aid the researcher in providing answers to the research question: to what extent do ownership and management structures influence the coverage of Boko Haram activities in Nigeria? These editors were selected because of their positions on the management hierarchy of the newspapers as well as their knowledges of the intricacies involved in the content production. The editors that were interviewed include: the managing editor of *Vanguard* newspaper, Mr. Eze Anaba; The Editor of the Sunday edition of *ThisDay* newspaper, Mr. Tokunbo Adedaja; the Editor of the Sunday edition of *Daily Trust*, Mr. Lawan Danjuma Adamu; and the editorial director of *Leadership* newspaper, Ms. Catherine Agbo.

5.6. Research Instruments

The research instruments used to gather data for this study were framing categories, interview guide, and critical discourse analytic tools such as narrative analysis, rhetoric analysis, lexical analysis, transitivity analysis, and patterns of intertextuality and interdiscursivity.

5.6.1. Framing Categories

The unit of analysis that was used to determine the frames within which the selected newspapers represent Boko Haram activities was the lead stories. The frames identified include: war frame, fear and threats frame, blame and responsibility frame, and punishment frame.

5.6.1.1. War Frame

This was a dominant frame in the study. It included those stories that discuss the Boko Haram insurgency as a war between Boko Haram and the Nigerian society (i.e. the government) on the one hand, and on the other hand, as a war between Boko Haram and the military, and Boko Haram and the media. The following theses aided in the development of this frame in the study:

- Violence and attacks on/against individuals, groups of people, and organisations.

- Deaths as a result of Boko Haram activities.
- Defeat on the group's side as well as on the Federal Government's side.
- Victory on the group's side as well as on the Federal Government's side.

5.6.1.2. Fear and Threats Frame

This frame category comprised lead stories that describe threats made by Boko Haram. It also included those stories that express and instill fear of the group's anticipated activities by the society.

5.6.1.3. Blame and Responsibility Frame

This frame included lead stories that were centred on the parties involved in the Boko Haram insurgency. It entailed all parties pointing accusing fingers at, blaming others for and taking responsibility for their roles in the crisis between Boko Haram and the Nigerian society. The stories that adhered to this frame category include:

- Stories in which the government and/or individuals accuse one another of working with Boko Haram or not doing enough to curb the activities of Boko Haram.
- Stories in which Boko Haram takes responsibility for attacks.

5.6.1.4. Punishment Frame

This frame category included lead stories that describe the measures taken by the federal government to stop the Boko Haram insurgency. It also included the punitive measures taken against anyone linked to Boko Haram activities albeit inadvertently.

5.6.2. Textual Analysis

This was the point of entry into the critical discourse analysis of the selected newspapers for this study. At this stage of the analysis, the researcher employed a combination of narrative analysis, rhetoric analysis and linguistic analytic tools such as: lexical analysis and transitivity analysis.

5.6.2.1. Narrative Analysis

Narrative is one of the main cultural processes shared by all societies (Fiske, 1987: 129). Therefore, categorizations and textual devices that control the sense of news are all embedded in a narrative form (Fiske 1987: 295). Based on this assertion, the lead stories and the editorials were all treated as and analysed as narratives using three models of narrative analysis. First, Todorov's (1977) five stage model of narrative analysis has been described as the simplest way of explaining a narrative (Wigston, 2001: 154). This model identifies events based on an initial state of equilibrium, a disruption, the recognition of the disruption, actions taken to restore the equilibrium (i.e. re-equilibrium), and the state of re-equilibrium (Fiske, 1987; Wigson, 2001). According to Fiske (1987), Todorov's model is particularly useful for its ability to explain news stories and to model news as the social narrative of the conflict between the social order and disruption forces (Fiske, 1987: 140).

In addition, Propp's (1968) narrative and character functions were applied to the news items. For Fiske (1987), Propp's narrative model of analysis provides the most extreme example of analysis (1987: 136). Propp identified a sequence of thirty-two narrative functions which he divided into six sections- preparation, complication, transference, struggle, return, and recognition (ibid: 136). Propp further identified seven character functions- the villain, donor (provider), helper, the princess and her father, the dispatcher, the hero, and the false hero (Fiske, 1987: 138). Because Propp's narrative functions are similar to Todorov's model and much more complicated, the researcher focused on using only Propp's character functions because "the functions of characters are stable constant elements in a tale" (Fiske, 1987: 138). The use of Propp's character functions in the study allowed the researcher to identify the actors and their roles within the texts.

Lastly, the study adopted Levi-Strauss' theory of narrative analysis. This model of narrative analysis finds a deep structure of meanings by taking characters, settings, and actions and analysing their relations of similarity and differences, usually in terms of binary oppositions (Fiske, 1987: 130). These binary oppositions are large abstract generalizations such as: good: evil, nature: culture, or humankind: gods (ibid: 130). Applying this model to the study allowed for an understanding of how certain concepts, characters, and events were positioned in opposition to others.

5.6.2.2. Argumentation/Rhetoric

In analysing the editorials of the selected newspapers, Aristotle's theory of rhetoric was adopted to analyse the strategies of argument used by the newspapers. According to Richardson (2007), Aristotle's theory of rhetoric identifies three varieties of rhetoric- forensic, epideitic, and deliberative. The forensic rhetoric is concerned with the past and its means are accusation and defence (Richardson, 2007: 157). The epideitic rhetoric is concerned with the present and its means are praise and censure (when this variety of rhetoric is positive, it is a eulogy, when negative, it is an invective) (ibid.). The deliberative rhetoric is concerned with the future and its means are inducement and dissuasion (ibid.). Richardson further argues that at the heart of rhetorical argumentation is the strategy that the arguer takes in persuading the audience i.e. the mode of persuasion. There are three major modes of persuasion- ethos, which is persuasion through the character of the arguer, pathos, which is the use of emotions to persuade an audience, and logos, which is the use of logic and the structure of the argument itself (Richardson, 2007: 159-165). Applying this theory/model to the editorials of the selected newspapers allowed the researcher to examine the stance of the newspaper as well as the strategies used to propagate that stance.

5.6.2.3. Lexical Analysis

Here, the researcher focused on analysing the transitivity patterns within the stories. According to Richardson (2007), “transitivity forms the very heart of representation by describing the relationships between participants and the roles they play in the processes described in reporting” (Richardson, 2007: 54). In analysing the patterns of transivity within the editorial, the three components of transivity analysis were applied:

- The participants involved in the process
- The construction of the process and
- The processes used.

5.6.3. Discourse Practice

At this level of analysis, the study moved from being a mere textual analysis to a discourse analysis by including in the analysis patterns of intertextuality and interdiscursivity in the news stories. According to Fiske (1987), the theory of intertextuality proposes that any one text is necessarily read in relationship to others and that a range of textual knowledges is brought to bear upon it (Fiske, 1987: 109). Based on this, the researcher examined how the newspapers in each story drew upon other texts.

The researcher also examined how each news story combined certain discourses in their presentation of facts and in the editorials. Here, the researcher analysed the patterns of interdiscursivity.

5.6.4. Sociocultural Practice

Analysis at this level, according to Fairclough (1995), may involve the more immediate situational context, the wider context of institutional practices that the event is embedded within, or the wider frame of the society and the culture (Fairclough, 1995: 62). At this stage of analysis,

the researcher focused on the North-south divide of the Nigerian society, and how this divide was reflected in the news texts.

5.6.5. Interview Guide

The study employed the semi-structured interview questions for the in-depth interviews. This was to enable the researcher probe further and provide extra information relevant to the study. The purpose of the interview was to understand the intricacies involved in the reportage of Boko Haram activities from the perspective of media managers, thus providing answers to the question: to what extent do ownership and management structures influence the coverage of Boko Haram activities in Nigeria?

5.7. Methods of Data Collection and Analysis

Lead stories and editorials were selected for analysis. The newspapers analysed were selected based on their inclusion of the variable “Boko Haram” in the headlines. The lead stories were analysed to investigate the frames within which the newspapers represented Boko Haram activities. After identifying the frames, the lead stories were divided into three major sections based on the April 2012 bombings.

1. The Pre-April Media Attacks- Analysis of lead stories six months prior to the April 2012 attacks on the media.
2. The April Media Attacks- Analysis of the selected four newspapers’ lead stories of the attacks on the media.
3. The Post-April Media Attacks- Analysis of the lead stories six months after the April 2012 attacks on the media.

Dividing the lead stories into these three sections allowed the researcher to easily detect whether there was a difference in the reportage of Boko Haram activities by these four newspapers following the April attacks as opposed to what was before the attacks

The editorials were analysed to determine the opinion of the newspapers with regards to the Boko Haram insurgency. All four newspapers had a total of five editorials on Boko Haram within the period of study. *Vanguard* newspaper had two editorials while *Daily Trust*, *Leadership*, and *ThisDay* newspapers had one editorial each with Boko Haram as the central theme. One editorial was analysed per each newspaper.

The interviews with the editors were conducted by the researcher via email and telephone as requested by each editor. The interviews with the Managing editor of *Vanguard*, Sunday Editor of *ThisDay*, and the Editorial Director of *Leadership* newspapers were conducted via email per the request of each editor. The Editor of *Daily Trust*, Sunday edition was interviewed via the telephone per his request and the discussion was recorded. The findings from the interviews were transcribed and analysed using the thematic content analysis method. Applying a thematic content analysis to the interview transcripts allowed the researcher to identify recurring themes that were relevant to the study. In addition, connections were made between ideas from the interviews and findings from the critical discourse analysis and framing analysis.

Table 5.1: Table showing the research methods used by the researcher to provide answers to specific research questions.

Research Questions	Research Method
<p>1. How do <i>Thisday</i>, <i>Vanguard</i>, <i>Daily Trust</i> and <i>Leadership</i> newspapers frame Boko Haram in their representations of the group and its activities?</p>	Framing Analysis
<p>2. How is the North-South polarization of the Nigerian society reflected in the selected newspapers' coverage of Boko Haram activities?</p>	Critical Discourse Analysis
<p>3. To what extent have the Boko Haram attacks on certain media organisations influenced the selected newspapers' coverage of Boko Haram activities?</p>	Critical Discourse Analysis
<p>4. To what extent do ownership and management structures influence the coverage of Boko Haram activities in Nigeria?</p>	In-depth Interview

5.8. Conclusion

This chapter provided a discussion of the research design of this study. Premised on the qualitative research approach, the chapter discussed the research methods adopted by the study- critical discourse analysis, framing analysis as well as the in-depth interviews.

CHAPTER SIX

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

6.1. Introduction

This study is designed to investigate how identity politics is reflected in Nigerian newspapers especially in relation to their coverage of the Boko Haram insurgency. Four newspapers- *ThisDay*, *Vanguard*, *Leadership*, and *Daily Trust* newspapers were selected to highlight the North-South dichotomy of the Nigerian society. This chapter presents and discusses the findings of the framing analysis, critical discourse analysis as well as the in-depth interviews. Four research questions were posed to provide answers to the research and the findings/data were discussed according to specific research questions.

Research Question 1: How do Thisday, Vanguard, Daily Trust and Leadership newspapers frame Boko Haram activities in their representations of the group?

6.2. Framing Analysis

This level of analysis determines how the selected newspapers frame(d) Boko Haram activities. It also identifies the types of frames used by the selected newspapers. The framing analysis is used to examine how *Thisday*, *Vanguard*, *Daily Trust* and *Leadership* newspapers frame Boko Haram activities. The framing analysis adopted the inductive approach to identify the frames present in the unit of analysis. The units of analysis were the lead stories, in the selected four newspapers, that had the variable “Boko Haram” in the headlines. The frames identified include: War frame, Fear and threats frame, Blame and Responsibility frame, and Punishment frame. A total of forty-three lead stories were analysed using the inductive approach to framing analysis. Of these total number of stories, *Vanguard* newspaper had a total of sixteen lead stories, *ThisDay* newspaper had a total of eight lead stories, *Daily Trust* newspaper had a total of eight lead

stories, and *Leadership* newspaper had a total of eleven news stories. Table 6.1 shows the statistical representation of the total number of lead stories that relate to the frames identified.

Table 6.1: Table showing percentage of frame coverage in the selected newspapers

Name of Newspaper	Location	Frames				
		War	Fear and Threats	Blame and Responsibility	Punishment	Total
ThisDay	South	5	1	1	1	8
Vanguard	South	10	2	2	2	16
Daily Trust	North	4	1	2	1	8
Leadership	North	5	2	2	2	11
Total		24	6	7	6	43

A. War Frame:

All four newspapers have a total of twenty-four lead stories that capture the essence of this frame category. *Vanguard* newspaper has ten cover stories in this category. *ThisDay* newspaper has five lead stories in this category. *Leadership* newspaper has five lead stories in this category. *Daily Trust* newspaper has four lead stories in this category. There are several stories in all four newspapers that describe/discuss this frame, however, only one lead story from each newspaper is examined under this framing category.

1. ThisDay Newspaper:

We're Winning War against Boko Haram, Says Jonathan

This lead story was published by *ThisDay* newspaper on the 22nd of September, 2012. It details victory on the Federal government's side in the war between the Federal Government and Boko Haram. To add credibility to the story, the newspaper cites the leader of the Federal Government's side- the President of the country, President Goodluck Jonathan- as the source.

The following quotes attributed to the President in the story buttress this framing category:

Excerpt 1: "According to him, the "robust" approach to checkmating *Boko Haram* using military force, holding indirect talks with the group and improving education in the North has led to a reduction in the number of successful attacks carried out by the insurgents."

Excerpt 2: "If I look at it, the trend is coming down," he said about the threat posed by *Boko Haram*. "It's not because Abu Qaqa is dead. Abu Qaqa is just one person. If one Abu Qaqa dies, it can generate 10 Abu Qaqas. The issue is not the death of one person. The issue is that the robust approach that government is taking, exploiting all possible means, is paying off, and we believe it will continue to pay off."

Excerpt 3: "The whole approach, both the security aspects, both the indirect talks, and the job opportunities that we are creating, is achieving results. We are giving hope to the people. One links up with the other to get to the respite we are seeing now; I cannot credit it to only one approach."

These quotes attributed to the President in the cover story, while discussing the "robust approach" of the federal government's response to Boko Haram attacks, celebrates the fact that the Federal government is winning and Boko Haram is losing the war.

2. Vanguard Newspaper:

ThisDay, Sun, The Moment bombed... Why we bombed ThisDay, others

This lead story was published by *Vanguard* newspaper on the 27th of April, 2012. It details attacks against three newspaper organisations in Abuja and Kano. This story buttresses one of the themes that aid the development of the war frame category: violence and attacks on/against

individuals, groups of people, and organisations. The story gives detailed and vivid descriptions about the attacks on the newspaper organisations. The story describes the attacks as a war between the Nigerian media and Boko Haram. In developing this story, *Vanguard* presents two major sides to the issue- the media's side and Boko Haram's side. Journalists and other members of staff of the newspaper organisations were interviewed to give their sides of the story. The following quotes from members of staff and management buttress this frame:

Excerpt 1: "We regard the coordinated attacks as an attack on journalism and free speech. However, we want to assure our readers and advertisers that we remain committed to the fundamental principles on which the newspaper is founded: democracy, free enterprise and social justice. We will not be deterred in our pursuit of truth and reason. No amount of threat or intimidation will weaken our resolve." – Statement by Managing editor of ThisDay, Mr. Eniola Bello.

Excerpt 2: "Despite this seeming set back, The Sun Publishing Limited, remains undeterred and refuses to be intimidated in its quest for a better and safer Nigeria. We will continue to report without fear or favour and with utmost sense of responsibility and patriotism." – Statement by the Managing editor of Sun newspapers, Mr. Tony Onyima.

The media organisations' comments following the attacks show that they realize that there is a war against the media by Boko Haram and that they would not back down from the war. Boko Haram also responds to the attacks by stating the reasons why they are waging war against the Nigerian media. The following quotes from Boko Haram via its spokesman, Abul Qaqa, explore this:

Excerpt 3: "We have repeatedly cautioned reporters and media houses to be professional and objective in their reports. This is a war between us and the government of Nigeria; unfortunately the media have not been objective and fair in their report of the ongoing war, they chose to take side."

Excerpt 4: "We have just started this new campaign against the media and we will not stop here, we will hit the media hard since they have refused to listen to our plea for them to be fair in their reportage... In the coming days we will give details and instances where the media have not been fair to us and why we are going to attack them as well."

These quotes from Boko Haram buttress the argument that the media have not been left out of the series of attacks by the group in which "the group has not hidden its distrust and disdain for

the Nigerian media” (Ekwueme & Obayi, 2012: 4). This story reflects an ongoing war between Boko Haram and the Nigerian media. Excerpt four above best captures the essence of this story as a war between Boko Haram and the Nigerian media.

3. Daily Trust Newspaper:

20 Killed as JTF pursues Boko Haram

This lead story was published by *Daily Trust* newspaper on the 21st of February, 2012. It describes the deaths that have occurred (apart from Boko Haram members and the Nigerian military) as a result of the war between the Nigerian government and Boko Haram. To add credibility to this story, a bystander, BBC news website, and a nurse were cited as sources on the number of civilians killed during the battle between Boko Haram and the military Joint Task Force (JTF). The following excerpts buttress this frame category:

Excerpt 1: “... the fact is, not all the people shot are Boko Haram members, I am sure there are civilians.”- Bystander, Trader Mohammed Sabiu.

Excerpt 2: “The BBC Hausa reported on its website yesterday that up to 30 people were killed in the shooting.”- BBC Hausa website.

Excerpt 3: “I am not sure of the exact number but I saw more than 20 bodies”- A nurse from University of Maiduguri teaching hospital, quoted by Reuters news agency.

This story fits into this category because of its emphasis on the casualties of the war between Boko Haram and the Joint Military Taskforce (JTF).

4. Leadership Newspaper:

Police Boss in Soup over Boko Haram Suspect’s Escape... Boko Haram kills 2 Soldiers, wounds 5 soldiers in Maiduguri

This lead story was published by *Leadership* newspaper on the 18th of January, 2012. The second story **Boko Haram kills 2 Soldiers, wounds 5 soldiers in Maiduguri** details victory on the part

of Boko Haram and defeat on the federal government's side. The story frames the Boko Haram insurgency as a war between Boko Haram and the Nigerian military, in which Boko Haram is winning the war against the military. The following excerpts underscore this frame category:

Excerpt 1: "...suspected members of the Boko Haram sect yesterday afternoon attacked a patrol vehicle belonging to the Joint Military Task Force (JTF) killing two soldiers and wounding five others."

To add credibility to the story, witnesses, a hospital source, and the Borno state commissioner of police are quoted:

Excerpt 2: "A source at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH), who spoke in confidence, confirmed that the remains of two military men with many gunshot injuries were taken to the hospital's morgue."

Excerpt 3: "According to witnesses, "the gunmen drove in the area in two Volkswagen cars, parked beside the road and hid in a corner, before the (sic) opening fire on the military patrol vehicle, which was about passing the spot."

Excerpt 4: "... the commissioner of police, Borno state command, Mr. Simeon Midenda, confirmed that two soldiers were shot in that incident."

B. Fear and Threats Frame:

All four newspapers have a total of six lead stories that capture the essence of this frame category. *Vanguard* newspaper has two cover stories in this category. *ThisDay* newspaper has one lead story in this category. *Leadership* newspaper has two lead stories in this category. *Daily Trust* newspaper has one lead story in this category. As with the preceding frame category, one story from each newspaper is examined under this framing category.

1. Vanguard Newspaper:

More bombings coming- Boko Haram

This lead story was published by *Vanguard* newspaper on 7th of November, 2011. It details threats made by Boko Haram to instill fear into the government and the Nigerian society. The story includes quotes from Boko Haram spokesman, Abul Qaqa as the source of the threats:

Excerpt 1: "...we will continue attacking federal government formations until federal government formations and security forces stop their excesses on our members and vulnerable civilians."

To further add credibility to the story, the story includes a warning by the U.S. embassy to its citizens to avoid certain places in Abuja. The following excerpt details this:

Excerpt 2: "A statement from the US embassy said they had information that the Boko Haram sect "may plan to attack several locations and hotels in Abuja." The statement did not disclose when the attacks would occur, but said: "All U.S. government personnel have been instructed to avoid these locations, and previously scheduled events have been cancelled."

The addition of this warning by the U.S. embassy is added to further fuel the existing fear of the group among members of the society.

2. ThisDay Newspaper:

Boko Haram: Arrest of Our Member, Obstacle to Dialogue

This lead story was published by *ThisDay* newspaper on the 3rd of February, 2012. It includes threats against the federal government in response to the arrest of a member of Boko Haram. According to the group, the arrested member was involved in the dialogue between the federal government and Boko Haram. As a result, the group feeling betrayed by the federal government, threatens to increase the intensity of its attacks. The following excerpts buttress this frame category:

Excerpt 1: “The arrest of Abu Dardaa is an outright deception and betrayal by the Nigerian government and security agents. They proclaimed dialogue and are doing the opposite. His arrest has proven to us that they were waiting for us to avail ourselves so that they can arrest us.”

Excerpt 2: “We are fully aware that the Nigerian government is deceptive in all ramifications but we resolved to give their offer a trial...unfortunately however, this is the outcome of all the call they have been making on dialogue. The truth is that even if they arrest all of us, God will protect is religion.”

Excerpt 3: “We want to reiterate that no amount of threat, arrest and intimidation will stop us from our course. We are not afraid of death and we are ever ready to die. Even before the arrest of Dardaa, so many of our members have been arrested.”

Excerpt 4: “The arrest or killing of any member of our sect will not stop us from what we are doing...”

3. Daily Trust Newspaper:

Easter: Boko Haram plans major Kano attack- JTF says.

This lead story was published by *Daily Trust* newspaper on 5th of April, 2012. This is another cover story that includes threats to attack Kano during the Easter celebration. The Joint military Task Force (JTF) is cited as the source behind the information of the planned attack. The JTF warns people about moving about during this period. It also warns people to be on the lookout for certain cars that were likely to be used by Boko Haram as bomb detonators. The following excerpts capture this frame category:

Excerpt 1: “Residents should be security conscious and be mindful of their movements because we have intelligence report that the terrorists are planning to take advantage of the oncoming Easter holiday to launch a large scale attack on Kano city just like they had done earlier this year.”

Excerpt 2: “We are trying very hard to protect the lives of Kano people from being terminated by terrorists. The JTF always tries to be professional in conducting its duties. Therefore people should accept our advice and stay indoors during the holiday.”

Excerpt 3: “Members of the public are continuously called upon to continue to remain vigilant, report suspicious cars especially Honda and Golf brands and movements of persons to the police and other security agencies. This would go a long way to frustrate the plans of the extremist elements bent on sabotaging the economy of the state as well as the peace of the community.”

4. Leadership Newspaper:

Intelligence: Boko Haram Regroups to Attack Kaduna.

This lead story was published by *Leadership* newspaper on 17th February, 2012. This story also includes perceived threats to Kaduna by Boko Haram. The story is an intelligence report from a top security officer who is cited as the primary source of information. The story includes a warning to residents of Kaduna to be vigilant. It also provides hotlines to report suspicious people and movements. The following quotes/excerpts buttress this:

Excerpt 1: “At the moment, we can’t really say who is who in kaduna. A few of them have fled Maiduguri, Kano and they are now regrouping in Kaduna. We really cannot say where they are stationed in Kaduna. But they are in Kaduna and they are trying to attack some places. They have interest in attacking places in Kaduna, but they have not really succeeded. That is why they have been busy planting bombs.”

Excerpt 2: “He disclosed that the security agencies in the state could be reached on the following hotlines- 08123822284, 07039675856 and 08081708671- and that residents could report suspected movements of persons or objects.”

C. Blame and Responsibility Frame:

All four newspapers have a total of seven lead stories that capture the essence of this frame category. *Vanguard* newspaper has 2 lead stories in this category. *ThisDay* newspaper has 1 lead story in this category. *Leadership* newspaper has two lead stories in this category. *Daily Trust* newspaper has two lead stories in this category. As with the preceding frame categories, one story from each newspaper is examined under this framing category.

1. Vanguard Newspaper:

Boko Haram: Arrest Ciroma, Lawal Kaita Clark

This lead story was published by *Vanguard* newspaper on 9th August, 2012. It describes how a prominent member of the Nigerian society, Chief Edwin Kiagbodo Clark, points accusing fingers

at Northern leaders for the reason behind the Boko Haram insurgency. He is reported as telling the security agencies to arrest a former minister of information, Mallam Adamu Ciroma; and a former governor of Kaduna state, Alhaji Lawal Kaita for their role in the Boko Haram crisis. To add credibility to the story, excerpts from the text with the comments against Ciroma and Adamu are included. The following excerpts support this category:

Excerpt 1: "... in October, 2010 during a build up to the last presidential election, Alhaji Lawal Kaita, a prominent Northern leader promised to make Nigeria ungovernable if the President did not come from the North."

Excerpt 2: "And as if on cue from Lawal Kaita, several other leaders of Northern Political Leaders Forum, headed by Alhaji Adamu Ciroma, of which Gen. Babangida is a prominent member, followed suit with similar reckless comments which might not only threaten peace in Nigeria but also Nigeria's very existence."

Excerpt 3: "Recently in March this year, Lawal Kaita issued another threat to the effect that the only condition for Nigeria to be one is for the presidency to come to the North in 2015."

2. ThisDay Newspaper:

Sheriff, Senator in Blame Game over Arrested Boko Haram Chief

This lead story was published by *ThisDay* newspaper on 23rd October, 2012. This story describes the apportioning of blames and accusations over who is involved in the Boko Haram insurgency. The story is about a senator, Ahmad Zanna, and a former governor of Borno state, Ali Modu Sheriff. They were both reported as accusing each other of being sponsors of and relatives of an arrested Boko Haram member. The accusations are reported to have occurred after the news broke that the Boko Haram suspect was arrested in a serving senator's house. The following excerpts buttress this category:

Excerpt 1: "The Joint Task Force (JTF) had last week announced the arrest of Bama in a serving senator's house in Maiduguri. Although the JTF did not mention the name of the senator, Zanna, who acknowledged Bama as his nephew, accused the JTF of distorting the facts of the arrest, stating that contrary to the claim, the Boko Haram chief was arrested in Sheriff's house."

Excerpt 2: “He blamed Sheriff for his travails, saying the former governor had not forgiven him since he defeated him in the last senatorial election”

Excerpt 3: “Sheriff ... refuted Zanna’s claim that Bama was arrested in his house. The former governor... described Zanna’s attempt to link him with his problem as laughable and mischievous. He urged security agencies to fully investigate Zanna’s links with Boko Haram and allegations of gun running.”

3. Leadership Newspaper:

Chairman, Northern States Chambers of Commerce, Says North loses N25bn Daily to Boko Haram Insurgency.... Quit if you can’t end sect’s activities, Arewa youths tell northern govts

This lead story was published by *Leadership* newspaper on 10th May, 2012. This story is included in this frame category because it describes how the Arewa youth forum blames governors of the affected northern states for the longevity of the Boko Haram insurgency, and asks them to resign if they cannot handle the responsibility of eradicating the group. The following excerpts portray this:

Excerpt 1: “A pan-northern youth movement, Arewa Youth Forum (AYF), yesterday told governors of the northern region to ‘leave the stage’ if they cannot chart a road map on how an amicable resolution could be reached between members of the Boko Haram sect and the federal government.”

Excerpt 2: “The group lamented that since the crisis began and has continued unabated, hundreds had lost their lives while property of inestimable value have been destroyed, leaving the north so unattractive for local and foreign investments.”

4. Daily Trust Newspaper:

FG is the biggest Boko Haram, Buhari Says

This lead story was published by *Daily Trust* newspaper on 15th May, 2012. This story discusses a prominent Nigerian politician, General Muhammadu Buhari, accusing the Federal Government

of being worse than the non-state armed group, Boko Haram. The following excerpts from the story solidify this story as belonging in this category:

Excerpt 1: “Former head of state Muhammadu Buhari says the Federal Government is the biggest of three types of Boko Haram, referring to the sect that has waged a deadly campaign of violence for more than two years.”

To add credibility to the story, quotes from the direct speech by Buhari are included in the story:

Excerpt 2: “I will like to quote Professor Ango Abdullahi that there are three Boko Harams, including the original one led by Muhammed Yusuf who was killed and his supporters tried to take revenge in attacking the law enforcement agencies and politicians. There is another developed Boko Haram of criminals who steal and kill, while the biggest Boko Haram is the Federal Government.”

D. Punishment Frame:

This frame category includes lead stories that describe the measures taken by the federal government to stop the Boko Haram insurgency. It also includes the punitive measures taken against anyone who is linked to Boko Haram activities albeit inadvertently. All four newspapers have a total of six lead stories that capture the essence of this frame category. *Vanguard* newspaper has two lead stories in this category. *ThisDay* newspaper has one lead story in this category. *Leadership* newspaper has two lead stories in this category. *Daily Trust* newspaper has one lead story in this category. As with the preceding frame categories, one story from each newspaper is examined under this framing category.

1. Vanguard Newspaper:

Boko Haram: Sen Ndume docked

This lead story was published by *Vanguard* newspaper on the 23rd of November 2011. The story describes the punitive measures against a senator (Senator Ali Ndume) who was accused of being a Boko Haram sponsor. The cover story describes the process of the court case against the

senator and a Boko Haram suspect. Excerpts from the First Information Report (FIR) are included as evidence that support this frame category in the story:

Excerpt 1: “Specifically, the security agency alleged that, “on diverse dates between September 15 and November 3, at Abuja and Maiduguri in Borno State, you, Mohammed Ali Ndume and Ali Sanda Umar Konduga (a.k.a. Al-Zawahiri) spokesman of the Boko Haram sect, did conspire to commit felony to wit breach of official trust in that Mohammed Ali Ndume disclosed classified information to persons to whom he ought not in public interest to so disclose.”

2. ThisDay Newspaper:

CP Suspended over Escape of Boko Haram Operative

This lead story was published by *ThisDay* newspaper on 18th January, 2012. The story discusses the suspension of the Commissioner of police that was in charge of an arrested Boko Haram suspect. The suspension is a punitive measure taken against the Nigeria Police Force for perceived negligence after the Boko Haram suspect escaped from police custody in the course of their investigation of the Boko Haram insurgency. This frame category is supported by the following excerpts from the story:

Excerpt 1: “The Nigeria Police Force (NPF) has suspended a Commissioner of Police, Zakari Biu, following the escape of a high-profile suspect from police custody.”

Excerpt 2: “The force yesterday confirmed that the suspected terrorist was arrested in a successful police operation but was rescued from a team of policemen detailed to carry out further investigation of the matter. The suspect had been handed over to Biu for further investigation and he consequently detailed his men to take him to Abaji for further investigation. The policemen escorting the suspect were, however, attacked by the suspected members of the sect and the suspect was freed.”

Excerpt 3: “According to a release signed by the police spokesperson, Olusola Amore, the authorities viewed this as development as ‘a serious negligence’ on the part of Biu. The statement said he was queried and suspended from duty.”

3. Leadership Newspaper:

FG Opens Secret Detention Centre for Boko Haram

This lead story was published by *Leadership* newspaper on 20th April, 2012. This story as well as the others within this frame category, describes the new punitive measures taken by the Federal Government against Boko Haram. The story reports that the Federal Government has opened a detention centre to detain arrested Boko Haram suspects possibly in response to the jail breaks in conventional prisons by Boko Haram. The following excerpts support this category:

Excerpt 1: “Nigeria is opening a secret detention centre to hold and interrogate suspected high-level members of the Boko Haram sect allegedly responsible for several suicide bomb attacks which has resulted in the death of hundreds of people with thousands more injured. Leadership learnt that this may not be unconnected with the recent jail breaks in some conventional prisons where members of the sect had escaped.”

For credibility, an unnamed state security service (SSS) source from Associated Press is quoted:

Excerpt 2: “All suspects arrested will be taken to the centre and would be interrogated by a security group.”

4. Daily Trust Newspaper:

Boko Haram Suspect’s escape: Police commissioner Zakari Biu suspended

This lead story was published by *Daily Trust* newspaper on 18th January, 2012. This story is similar to that of *ThisDay* newspaper. This is because they both have one lead story each within this category. The story like *ThisDay*’s story discusses the punishment meted out to a Police Commissioner responsible for the escape of an arrested Boko Haram suspect. The police commissioner is accused of being negligent, which led to the escape of the suspect from police custody. As a result, he is punished by being suspended from the Nigeria Police Force. The following excerpts reinforce this frame category:

Excerpt 1: “Police commissioner Zakari Biu was suspended from the force yesterday after an operation he led to investigate arrested Boko Haram suspect Kabiru Sokoto ended in the escape of the suspect at Abaji, Abuja, on Sunday.”

To add credibility to the story, the story also includes excerpts from the statement announcing the suspension:

Excerpt 2: “The Nigeria Police Force wishes to confirm that a suspect was arrested in a successful police operation and was rescued from a team of Policemen detailed to carry out further investigation in the matter.”

“The police view this development as a serious negligence on the part of the Commissioner of Police and have since been queried and suspended him from duty.”

Research Questions 2 and 3: How is the North-South polarization of the Nigerian society reflected in the selected newspapers' coverage of Boko Haram activities? To what extent have the Boko Haram attacks on certain media organisations influenced the selected newspapers' coverage of Boko Haram activities?

To provide answers to these two questions, a critical discourse analysis of selected lead stories and editorials was carried out.

6.3. Critical Discourse Analysis:

This study covers the period of October 2011 to October 2012. This is significant because prior to April 2012, the media were very vocal in their critique of the non-state armed group, Boko Haram. In April 2012, *Thisday* newspaper was attacked to serve as a warning to the media on their position against the group (Premium Times, 2012). Therefore, it is essential to study the news coverage six months before the attacks on the media in April, and six months after the attacks to confirm if the attacks had achieved the intended effect on the media. As a result, the critical discourse analysis of the lead stories is divided into three major sections:

1. The Pre-April Media Attacks- Analysis of lead stories six months prior to the April 2012 attacks on the media.
2. The April Media Attacks- Analysis of the selected four newspapers' lead stories of the attacks on the media.
3. The Post-April Media Attacks- Analysis of the lead stories six months after the April 2012 attacks on the media.

Dividing the lead stories into these three sections allows the researcher to easily detect whether there is a difference in the reportage of Boko Haram activities by these four newspapers following the April attacks as opposed to what was before the attacks.

6.3.1. The Pre-April Media Attacks

6.3.1.1. Vanguard Newspaper

Boko Haram: Outrage over Xmas massacre

This lead story was published by *Vanguard* on the 27th of December 2011. It is one of several stories about the Christmas day bombings orchestrated by Boko Haram. Like all news stories, this cover story is structured as a narrative. It is a report on the reactions of members of the Nigerian society to the Christmas day bomb attacks that occurred in a church in Madalla, Niger state. The cover story begins with a general description of events, from the bombings, to eye-witness accounts, death and injury tolls, to reactions and comments from political, religious and legal organisations as well as prominent Nigerians. The newspaper divides these events into nine mini stories, each with their own sub-heads giving in-depth details into the events. The first mini-story is titled: **At National Hospital, Abuja survivors share experience**. This five-paragraphed story is centred on hospital officials, and survivors of the attacks sharing their accounts of events. The second story is titled: **Officials keep mum at General Hospital, Asokoro**. Like the preceding story, this one includes details of a Parish Priest's account of the bomb blast. It also includes a mention of officials of the General Hospital, Asokoro's refusal to "give details on the state of victims brought to the hospital" like their counterparts at the National hospital. The third story is titled: **Catholic families hold mass for victims**, is a 3-paragraphed piece that reports on a mass held by the affected church for the victims of the bomb blast. It also includes a speech made by the Catholic Bishop of Abuja to the Federal Government, asking them "to immediately take drastic steps to nip the spate of bombings in the country". The other six stories report on comments made by the Senate President, David Mark; comments made by Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Congress for Progressive Change (CPC), and

prominent Nigerians such as: Buhari, Tinubu, Pat Utomi, Chief Maxi Okwu, Dr Federick Faseun, Alhaji Yerima Shettima, and Senator Bukola Saraki.

“It’s a war against Nigerians- Mark”

“ACF condemn blasts”

“Crisis festered because of Govt’s wrong approach- ACN”

“Buhari, Tinubu, Utomi, others react”

“NEMA condemn acts”

“It’s a symptom of systemic collapse- CPC”



There is a high degree of intertextuality present in the lead story- both internal and external. The internal form is manifested through the reported speeches and direct quotations from hospital sources, victims and survivors, political, legal and religious organisations, and prominent Nigerians. The external form of intertextuality is evidenced by the reference to previous news stories and texts. These include: previous news stories about the bomb attacks on Christmas day by Boko Haram; news stories about similar bomb attacks by Boko Haram on December 24 and 31 2010.

According to Fiske (1987), the categorizations and textual devices that control the sense of news are all embedded in a narrative form (Fiske, 1987: 295). Based on this assertion, the lead story is analysed as a narrative using Propp’s (1968) and Todorov’s (1977) narrative analysis models. Todorov’s five stage model of analysis identifies events based on the initial state of equilibrium, disruption, the recognition of that disruption, the actions taken to restore the equilibrium (i.e re-equilibrium), and a new state of re-equilibrium. Applying this five-stage model to the lead story, the initial equilibrium is inferred based on Fiske’s argument that newsworthy events are those that disrupt or restore equilibrium because the state of equilibrium in itself is not newsworthy

and is never described except implicitly in its opposition to the state of disequilibrium (disruption) which, typically, is described in detail (Fiske, 1987: 140). Thus the initial state of equilibrium for the lead story is a peaceful and joyous Christmas celebration in churches and in the society. The disruption/state of disequilibrium is the bomb blast at St. Theresa Catholic Church, Madalla, Niger State. This disruption is recognised by the reactions of outrage by the media, legal, political, and religious organisations, as well as prominent Nigerians to the bomb blast. It is inferred that actions are being taken by the government and security agencies to arrest and punish those responsible for the attacks to restore peace and safety in the society (re-equilibrium).

Table 6.2: Todorov’s model applied to “BOKO HARAM: Outrage over xmas massacre”

Todorov’s five-stage model	Application to Vanguard’s Lead story
1. State of equilibrium	Peaceful and happy Christmas celebrations where people go to church and feel safe in the society.
2. Disruption/disequilibrium	Bomb blast at St. Theresa Catholic Church during Christmas mass.
3. Recognition	Outrage/ Angry reactions to the bomb blast by the media, religious, political and legal organisations and prominent Nigerians.
4. Action	Security agencies in conjunction with the federal government take steps to arrest/ punish those responsible for the bombings.
5. Re-equilibrium	Peaceful and safe society free from Boko Haram.

Applying Propp’s narrative and character functions to the lead story allows the researcher to identify the actors and their roles within the story. The members of St. Theresa Catholic Church

are positioned as victims, members of the family (Nigeria) who have been harmed by the villain. Boko Haram is positioned as the villain who causes harm.

A transitivity analysis allows the researcher to dig deeper into the roles that the actors identified by Propp's character functions, play. While Propp's character functions allow for only seven characters, a transitivity analysis allows the researcher to explore all the participants within the story and their roles. According to Richardson (2007), "transitivity forms the very heart of representation by describing the relationships between participants and the roles they play in the processes described in reporting" (Richardson, 2007: 54). Applying a transitivity analysis to the cover story, two major participants involved in the communicative event described in the story are identified- the prominent Nigerians and organisations; and the victims of the bomb blast. The prominent Nigerians and organisations are constructed as active participants with verbal processes when they react to the bomb attacks. They are positioned as subjects of speech acts characterized by verbs such as: "**described**", "**sympathized**", "**feared**", "**said**", "**condemned**", "**accused**", "**queried**", "**called for**", "**told**". The victims of the bomb blast are constructed as objects of attacks by Boko Haram. They are constructed as active participants with relational processes characterized by verb phrases such as: "**were brought in dead**", "**were brought in mutilated**", "**were burnt beyond recognition**". The survivors are also constructed as active participants with verbal processes characterized by verbs like: "**recounted**", "**said**".

This lead story identifies a set of binary oppositions, in which Boko Haram is constructed in opposition to Nigerians.

Table 6.3: Table showing binary oppositions in Vanguard’s lead story.

Boko Haram	Nigerians
“launched attacks against Nigerians”	Victims of the attacks by Boko Haram
“at war against Nigerians”	Casualties of war
“fighting innocent people”	Innocent people
“Perpetrators of violence”	Peace-loving people

6.3.1.2. ThisDay Newspaper CP Suspended over Escape of Boko Haram Operative

This lead story was published by *ThisDay* on the 18th of January, 2012. It is one of the series of news stories that discuss the arrest and escape of a Boko Haram suspect as well as the aftermath particularly regarding the role of the Nigeria police in the escape. This lead story reports on the punitive measures taken against the members of the Nigeria police force who were complicit in the escape of the arrested Boko Haram suspect.

The lead captures the essence of the story: **“The Nigeria Police Force (NPF) has suspended a Commissioner of Police (CP), Zakari Biu, following the escape of a high-profile suspect from police custody”** (*ThisDay*, 18 January, 2012: 1). The story further implies that the CP shirked his responsibility by passing on the responsibility of keeping the suspect to junior officers and as a result, he deserves to be punished. **“The suspect had been handed over to Biu for further investigation and he consequently detailed his men to take him to Abaji for further questioning [...] the authorities viewed this development as ‘a serious negligence’ on the part of Biu [...] he was therefore queried and suspended from duty”** (*ThisDay*, 18 January, 2012: 1& 6). The story also villainizes the Commissioner of Police by highlighting his role in an authoritarian military regime headed by Gen. Sani Abacha. His role as villain is

foregrounded by including details of Zakari Biu's past as anti-terrorist squad head under Gen. Sani Abacha's regime. He is portrayed as a monster who was responsible for **"many bombings including the ones that led to the deaths of journalist, Bagauda Kaltho, and former Chief Security Officer at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Lagos, Dr Sola Omatsola"** (*ThisDay*, 18 January, 2012: 6). The story also alludes to the fact that Kabiru's escape was no coincidence because several other Boko Haram suspects had escaped from police custody previously: **"Several Boko Haram suspects have escaped from custody in the last one year, fueling suspicion that it may not be a coincidence"** (*ThisDay*, 18 January, 2012: 6). The story also references President Goodluck Jonathan's comments that Boko Haram had infiltrated his government and security agencies **"President Goodluck Jonathan said recently that the security agencies had been infiltrated by Boko Haram sympathisers which were making the war against terror very difficult"** (*ThisDay*, 18 January, 2012: 6). Lastly, the story discusses the complicity of the Borno state government in the Boko Haram insurgency. This is because Kabiru Sokoto was arrested in the Borno State lodge in Abuja. **"On Sunday, the government of Borno State had raised the alarm over the arrest of Sokoto at the Governor's Lodge in Abuja last Friday by security operatives. The arrest of Sokoto had led to insinuations that the state government was harbouring a key suspect in the Christmas Day bombings at Madalla, Niger State"** (*ThisDay*, 18 January, 2012: 6).

This lead story has a high degree of intertextuality, and, like Vanguard's lead story, it contains elements of both internal and external forms of intertextuality. The internal form is evidenced through the reported speeches, direct and indirect quotations from the police spokesperson, and a statement issued by the Borno State government. The external intertextuality is manifested through the mentions of other news stories such as: the arrest of Kabiru Sokoto and his

subsequent escape; the Christmas day bombing of St. Theresa’s Catholic Church; Zakari Biu’s past involvement in Gen Sani Abacha’s military regime; and President Jonathan’s comments about Boko Haram infiltrating government and security agencies.

Applying Todorov’s five-stage model of narrative analysis to the lead story, the initial state of equilibrium is a certain degree of victory over Boko Haram characterized by the arrest of a mastermind behind the Christmas day bomb attack in Madalla. The disruption is identified as the escape of the suspect, Kabiru Sokoto from police custody. This disruption is recognised by the government, who takes action by suspending the Commissioner of police for his negligence in the suspect’s escape. The authorities launch an investigation into the matter in order to restore the equilibrium in which the man responsible for killing so many people is held accountable for his actions. Based on the focus of the cover story, the newspaper approaches the story from the action stage of Todorov’s five-stage model. Thus the other four stages are inferred from the text.

Table 6.4: Todorov’s model applied to “CP Suspended over Escape of Boko Haram Operative”

Todorov’s Five-Stage Model	Application to Lead story
1. State of equilibrium	Victory against Boko Haram manifested through arrest of Christmas day bomb attacks, Kabiru Sokoto.
2. Disruption/disequilibrium	The escape of suspect from Police custody.
3. Recognition	The Authorities (Government) recognize the disruption.
4. Action	The Authorities suspend the CP and launch an investigation into the escape.
5. Re-equilibrium	Re-arrest of Kabiru Sokoto and justice for victims of the Madalla bomb blast.

Applying Propp's narrative and character functions to the lead story, Kabiru Sokoto is positioned as the villain who struggles with the hero by causing harm to members of the hero's family. The commissioner of police, Zakari Bui, and the police are positioned as the victim who unknowingly help the villain by being influenced by the villain. This is supported by the insinuations that Kabiru's escape was not coincidental based on previous escapes of Boko Haram suspects in the last one year. The "**authorities**" are positioned as the dispatcher who sends the hero (the Nigeria Police Force) on a quest to conquer the villain. The Borno State Government is also positioned as the victim who unknowingly helps the villain by being influenced by the villain.

Applying a transitivity analysis to the cover story, five participants are identified- the authorities (government authorities), the Nigeria Police Force, Zakari Bui, Kabiru Sokoto, and the Borno State Government. The Nigeria Police force are constructed as active participants with predominantly relational processes characterized by verb phrases such as: "**has suspended**", "**were attacked**". They are also constructed with verbal process with the use of the verb: "**confirmed**". Zakari Bui is constructed as an active participant, the object of the act of suspension by the authorities. He is constructed with primarily relational processes characterized by verb phrases such as: "**was... queried and suspended**", "**will be prosecuted**", "**was the head of the anti-terrorist squad**", and "**was blamed for many bombings**". He is also constructed with material process: "**He ... detailed his men**". Kabiru Sokoto is constructed as an active participant with mainly relational processes characterized by verb phrases such as: "**was arrested**", "**was freed**", "**was rescued**", "**had been handed over to**", "**had escaped**", "**is believed to have masterminded and coordinated**". The Borno State Government is constructed as an active participant with relational processes: "**had raised the alarm over the arrest**", "**was**

harbouring a key suspect”; verbal processes: “said”; and material processes: “wrote”. Lastly, the authorities are constructed as active participants with mainly material process: he “viewed”.

The lead story constructs a good versus evil binary opposition. The Nigeria Police force is constructed as good in opposition to Boko Haram, the suspended CP and the other policemen involved in the escape of the suspect. They are constructed as evil/bad and supporters of evil.

Table 6.5: table showing binary oppositions in “CP Suspended over Escape of Boko Haram Operative”

Good	Evil/Bad
The Nigeria Police Force	Zakari Biu (Commissioner of Police) Kabiru Sokoto (escaped Boko Haram suspect)
Federal Government of Nigeria	Boko Haram

6.3.1.3. Leadership Newspaper

Boko Haram Spokesman Abul Qaqa Captured

This lead story was published by *Leadership* newspaper on the 2nd of February, 2012. It is one of many stories that report about the arrest of a high-ranking member of Boko Haram. This particular lead story is a twelve-paragraphed story that announces the arrest of Boko Haram’s spokesperson, Abul Qaqa: **“A key member of Boko Haram, Abul Qaqa, was arrested by the State Security Service (SSS) yesterday, just as 20 victims of the Christmas Day bomb blast in Madallah, Niger State, were given mass burial”** (*Leadership*, 2 January, 2012: 1). The newspaper attributes the information about the arrest to the Borno State Director of the SSS: **“The Borno State director of the SSS, Ahmed Abdullahi, disclosed on Wednesday night that his officers had arrested the man who goes by the pseudonym Abul Qaqa in Maiduguri”** (*Leadership*, 2 January, 2012: 1). The story also includes Boko Haram’s response to

the arrest: “**Shortly after the announcement of the capture of the spokesman, an unidentified member of the sect who spoke with reporters on phone confirmed that their spokesman had indeed been nabbed [...] He however stated that Qaqa’s arrest would not deter the sect from carrying out more violence against the authority and security agents [...]**” (*Leadership*, 2 January, 2012: 5).

There are certain elements of intertextuality within the story, particularly the internal form of intertextuality. This is manifested through the indirect quotations from the Borno State SSS Director and Boko Haram’s representative; and direct quotations from both sources.

Applying Todorov’s five stage model to the story, the initial state of equilibrium is inferred as the evasiveness of and the continued terrorization of the country by Boko Haram as a group. The disruption is the arrest of the Boko Haram spokesman. Leadership recognizes this disruption from the Borno State SSS Director’s press conference and Boko Haram’s phone call confirming the arrest. The SSS “**continue to take action against**” Boko Haram to ensure a peaceful and safe society.

Table 6.6: Todorov’s model applied to “Boko Haram Spokesman Abul Qaqa Captured”

Todorov’s Five-Stage Model	Application to Leadership’s story
1. State of equilibrium (inferred)	Evasiveness of and the continued terrorization of the country by Boko Haram as a group.
2. Disruption	The arrest of the Boko Haram spokesman.
3. Recognition	Leadership recognizes this disruption from the Borno State SSS Director’s press conference and Boko Haram’s phone call confirming the arrest.
4. Action	The SSS “ continue to take action against ” Boko Haram.
5. Re-equilibrium	Peaceful and safe society, free from Boko Haram.

Applying Propp’s narrative and character functions positions Boko Haram as the villain who struggles with the hero and is eventually conquered as evidenced by Qaqa’s arrest. The SSS is positioned as the hero who struggles with and overcomes the villain. A team of experts alluded to by the SSS Director is positioned as the donor who provides the ‘magical agent’ (GPS tracking) to the hero to help in conquering the villain.

The patterns of transitivity in the lead story identify three major participants- Boko Haram, Abul Qaqa, and the SSS. Qaqa is constructed as an active participant. He is described as “**a key member of Boko Haram**”. He is constructed with primarily relational processes. He “**was arrested**”, “**was picked from his hideout**”, “**has been arrested**”, and “**was taken unawares**”. He is also constructed with material processes with verbs like: “**served**” (describing his role in the Boko Haram organisation). The SSS are constructed as active participants who are positioned as the subject of the act of arresting/capturing Abul Qaqa. They are attributed with verbal

processes through the Director’s comments and are characterized by verbs like: “**disclosed**”, “**explained**”, and “**added**”. Boko Haram is constructed as a participant via the group’s representative who confirmed the news of their spokesman’s arrest. He is constructed with mainly verbal processes occasioned by verbs like: “**spoke**”, “**said**”, “**stated**”, and “**assured**”.

Based on the SSS Director’s statement of “**we have finally got him...**” creates an ‘us’ versus ‘them’ divide in which Boko Haram is constructed in opposition to the Nigerian Authorities.

Table 6.7: Table showing binary oppositions in “Boko Haram Spokesman Abul Qaqa Captured”

Boko Haram	Nigerian Authorities
Bad	Evil/Bad
Abul Qaqa	State Security Service (SSS)
“captured”	Carried out the arrest/ capture

6.3.1.4. Daily Trust Newspaper

As talks begin... FG, Boko Haram consider ceasefire

This lead story was published by *Daily Trust* newspaper on the 16th of March, 2012. This lead story is one of many news stories that report on the dialogue process between Boko Haram and the Federal Government of Nigeria. “**The Federal Government and the Boko Haram sect have opened peace talks with an individual with an indirect contact made between the two sides over the past week through two senior clerics, sources privy to the discussions told *Daily Trust* last night**” (*Daily Trust*, 16 March, 2012: 1). The story cites the source of information as people close to the dialogue proceedings, however, the story does not reveal the identity of its sources. While the entire story is premised on the comments made by unidentified sources, the newspaper mentions that it made attempts to get Boko Haram and the Federal

Government's sides of the story to no avail. **"There was no immediate comment from the Presidency over the story yesterday. Boko Haram, which makes sporadic tele-conferences through Maiduguri-based journalists, also did not react to the report. The senior cleric mentioned as the leading mediator did not answer calls made to seek his comments yesterday"** (*Daily Trust*, 16 March, 2012: 1&5).

There is evidence of both internal and external elements of intertextuality. The internal intertextuality is manifested through the direct and indirect quotations from statements/comments made by the unidentified sources. The external intertextuality manifests in form of reference to *Reuter's* reports about the Boko Haram and Federal Government dialogue; news stories about President Jonathan's comments in January **"that the government was open to dialogue but said sect members were hidden and therefore direct talks were unlikely"**.

Applying Todorov's five-stage model to the story, the initial state of equilibrium is inferred as a peaceful society pre-Boko Haram. The disruption is also inferred as the Boko Haram insurgency. The Federal Government recognizes this disruption and takes action to curb the insurgency by engaging in a dialogue with Boko Haram to establish a re-equilibrium of the total eradication of Boko Haram and a return to a peaceful society.

Table 6.8: Todorov’s model applied to “As talks begin... FG, Boko Haram consider ceasefire”

Todorov’s Five-stage Model	Application to Leadership’s Story
1. State of equilibrium	Peaceful Society
2. Disruption	Boko Haram insurgency.
3. Recognition	The Federal Government recognizes this disruption.
4. Action	The Federal Government takes action by engaging in a dialogue with the group.
5. Re-equilibrium	Total eradication of Boko Haram and a return to a peaceful society.

Applying Propp’s narrative and character functions to the story, there is a struggle between the Federal Government and Boko Haram, in which the Federal Government is the hero and Boko Haram is the villain.

Drawing from Levi-Strauss’ narrative model of binary oppositions, Boko Haram is constructed as being in opposition to the Federal Government of Nigeria. The federal government is good and is willing to engage in a dialogue with Boko Haram who is evil and averse to dialoguing with the government.

Table 6.9: Table showing binary oppositions in “As talks begin... FG, Boko Haram consider ceasefire”

Boko Haram	Federal Government of Nigeria
Evil/ Bad	Good
Averse to dialoguing	“Open to dialogue”
“hidden”	Visible

6.3.2. April Media Attacks

6.3.2.1. Vanguard Newspaper

ThisDay, Sun, The Moment bombed

This lead story was published by Vanguard on the 27th of April, 2012. It is one of many lead stories that report about the bomb attacks on media organisations by Boko Haram. The lead story is structured as a narrative, however, it is creatively divided into two major stories- details of the bomb blast; and Boko Haram's side of the story. The first story focuses on details of the bomb attacks on newspaper offices in Abuja and Kaduna. **"THE terrorist campaign rocking Northern Nigeria, yesterday, turned fatal towards the Nigerian media with simultaneous bomb attacks on *Thisday* Newspapers in Abuja and Kaduna, as well as *The Sun* and *The Moment* offices"** (*Vanguard*, 27 April, 2012: 1). This story includes excerpts from statements by the Managing Directors of *ThisDay* and *Sun* newspapers reacting to the bomb attacks: **"Managing Director of Thisday Mr. Eniola Bello in a statement last night said..."** **"Sun newspapers in a statement by its Managing Director/Editor-in-Chief, Mr. Tony Onyima said..."** In addition, this story includes eyewitness accounts of the bombings and the arrest of one of the bombers in Kaduna, and police confirmation of events.

The second story reports on Boko Haram claiming responsibility for the attacks and their reasons for targeting the media, especially *ThisDay* newspaper. This section is titled: **Why we attacked ThisDay, others- Boko Haram**. By attributing the words in the title to Boko Haram, the newspaper dissociates itself from being caught in the crossfire between Boko Haram and the government. This is for a number of reasons: Firstly, *Daily Trust* newspaper has been in the cross-fire between the Federal Government and Boko Haram especially during the immediate-past President Jonathan's administration which accused them of being in cahoots with the non-state armed group, Boko Haram (Reporters without borders, 2012). Secondly, Boko Haram's

claims that the Nigerian media are biased against the group, evidenced by the assassinations of journalists (Oyewo & Oyewo, 2016). According to the newspaper: **“THE Jama’atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda’awati Wal-Jihad, popularly known as Boko Haram, said yesterday that it attacked Thisday newspaper’s offices in Abuja and Kaduna to send a strong message to the media that it would no longer condone reports misrepresenting it in the press, or blaming it for acts it knows nothing about”** (*Vanguard*, 27 April, 2012: 61). The source of this information is attributed to a Boko Haram spokesperson, Abul Qaqa’s statements in an exclusive interview with *Premium Times* (an online newspaper). Some excerpts of the interview are included to show credibility. In addition, the story alludes to previous news stories by *Premium Times* that media reportage about Abul Qaqa’s arrest earlier in the year was false: **“Premium Times had continuously reported that Abul Qaqa was not arrested contrary to reports and that it was Abu Darda, another member that was arrested”** (*Vanguard*, 27 April, 2012: 61). This misrepresentation coupled with other pre-existing issues, according to the group, led to the bomb attacks against the media. Excerpts from Abul Qaqa’s comments buttress this: **“we have just started this new campaign against the media and we will not stop here, we will hit the media hard since they have refused to listen to our plea for them to be fair in their reportage, he said”** (*Vanguard*, 27 April, 2012: 61).

There is a high degree of intertextuality- both internal and external forms. The internal form of intertextuality is manifested through direct quotations from eye-witnesses and survivor accounts of the events, the police, statements by newspaper management of the affected newspaper offices, and Boko Haram’s interview with *Premium Times*. The external form of intertextuality is manifested when the story references Boko Haram’s exclusive interview with *Premium Times*; and previous news stories about the arrested Boko Haram spokesman. **“Premium Times had**

continuously reported that Abul Qaqa was not arrested contrary to reports and that it was Abu Darda, another member that was arrested” (*Vanguard*, 27 April, 2012: 61).

Applying Todorov’s five-stage narrative analysis model to the lead story, the initial state of equilibrium is inferred as a peaceful Nigerian society in which press freedom is guaranteed; the disruption is the bomb attacks against newspaper offices in Abuja and Kaduna. *Vanguard* newspaper recognizes this disruption and reports on it. The police and other security agencies take action to re-establish a Boko Haram free society where the media carry out their duties freely without fear.

Table 6.10: Todorov’s model applied to “ThisDay, Sun, The Moment bombed”

Todorov’s Five-Stage Model	Application to Vanguard’s story
1. State of equilibrium	Peaceful Nigerian society in which press freedom is guaranteed.
2. Disruption	The Nigerian media is attacked by bombing <i>ThisDay</i> newspaper offices in Abuja and Kaduna, as well as <i>The Sun</i> and <i>The Moment</i> offices in Kaduna.
3. Recognition	<i>Vanguard</i> recognizes this disruption and reports on it.
4. Action	The Police and other security agencies take action to re-establish the state of equilibrium.
5. Re-equilibrium	Boko Haram free society where there is press freedom.

Applying Propp’s narrative and character functions to the story, the police are positioned as the hero who struggle against the suicide bomber in Kaduna (the Villain). The *Sun*, *The Moment*, and *ThisDay* newspapers are positioned as members of the family who have been harmed by the Villain. Boko Haram is also positioned as the villain who cause harm and destruction to the

Nigerian media. Further examining the patterns of transitivity, there are four major participants identified: the Nigerian media, Eye-witnesses and survivors, the Police, and Boko Haram.

This lead story creates a parallel between the Nigerian media and Boko Haram, in which Boko Haram is bad and attacks media organisations who are good.

Table 6.11: Table showing binary oppositions in “ThisDay, Sun, The Moment bombed”

Boko Haram	Nigerian Media
Bad/Evil	Good
“Will hit the media hard”	“remain committed to the principles of democracy, free enterprise, and social justice”
“Campaign against the media”	“will continue to report without fear”
“Misrepresented”	Unfair and biased

6.3.2.2. ThisDay Newspaper THISDAY Under Attack

This lead story was published by *ThisDay* newspaper on the 27th of April, 2012. It is also, one of the many lead stories about the Boko Haram bombings of newspaper offices in Abuja and Kaduna. This particular cover story tells the story from the perspective of the victims as this is one of the newspapers whose offices were attacked; and the newspaper was the main target of the attacks against the media. This lead story is a creative combination of several news stories. These stories include reactions of “Nigerians” towards the attacks; survivor accounts of how they escaped death; statements by the newspaper’s management; as well as the security agencies; and reactions from *ThisDay* and *The Sun* newspapers.

The first story is titled: **Nigerians Condemn Attacks on THISDAY Newspaper**. It is a compilation of the reactions of politicians, leaders, Governors, organisations, and other prominent Nigerians towards the attacks. For added credibility, the story includes quotations

from the speakers. The next two stories are two staff members' accounts of their experiences. The first story is titled: **"A Few Metres away from Death"** is focused on a reporter's **"close shave with death"**. He recounts his experience: **"[...] I suddenly heard a loud explosion, which threw me off balance [...] I tried to escape through the back door but the impact of the explosion was massive and I crawled under a nearby desk [...] I only became conscious that some broken glasses, ceiling materials, dusts and smoke began to descend on me before I made an instinctive escape out of the building"** (*ThisDay*, 27 April, 2012: 10). The second story is titled: **"A Phone Call Saved My Life"**. It focuses on a *ThisDay* reporter who had survived the UN house bomb blast a few months earlier, and how he escaped another bomb blast. He is quoted as saying: **"[...] I knew I had escaped death in the hands of terrorists for the second time in eight months, the first being at the UN House where I was on the third floor when the suicide bomber struck. I was about taking the lift downstairs when I changed my mind and decided to see someone in her office. Five minutes later, the bomber struck. And now this"** (*ThisDay*, 27 April, 2012: 10).

The next story is titled: **"They Can Bomb Our Offices but They Can't Bomb Our Resolve!"** This story reports on the response of *ThisDay* newspaper to the bomb attacks on their Abuja and Kaduna offices. The statement issued by the Managing Director is cited as the source of this information: **"We will not be deterred in our pursuit of truth and reason. No amount of threat or intimidation can weaken our resolve, the newspaper said in a statement signed by its Managing Director, Mr. Eniola Bello"** (*ThisDay*, 27 April, 2012: 11). The story also includes Boko Haram's claim of responsibility for the attacks: **"Boko Haram last night claimed responsibility for the attacks, according to an online report. They also said they were going to attack more media houses except favourable reports were published about their**

activities, according to the website” (*ThisDay*, 27 April, 2012: 11). The story also gives a summary of the events. It also includes the State Security Service’s (SSS) statement about the attacks. Also, the story presents an eye-witness account of the events: “**Jamil Abubakar, who witnessed all the drama, told a slightly different version of the story”** (*ThisDay*, 27 April, 2012: 11). Lastly, the story includes a circulation clerk’s account of events, as well as the Kaduna state Police Commissioner’s confirmation of the arrest of a suspect.

Like all the other news stories, there is a high degree of intertextuality, particularly the internal form. This is manifested through the reported speeches and direct quotations from prominent Nigerians, security agencies, eye-witnesses and survivors, and management of *ThisDay* newspapers. There is also a relatively low amount of external intertextuality. This is evidenced by the newspaper’s mention of a news story from a website about Boko Haram’s claim of responsibility for the attacks.

Todorov’s five-stage model of analysis applied to the story identifies as the initial state of equilibrium is inferred as a peaceful society where the Press has the freedom to report on issues. The disruption is the bombing of *ThisDay* newspaper offices in Abuja and Kaduna. *ThisDay* recognizes this disruption and “strengthens its resolve to keep pursuing truth and reason”. Security agencies take action to bring the perpetrators to justice and curbing the activities of Boko Haram to achieve a re-equilibrium of total eradication of Boko Haram and the re-establishment of a peaceful and safe society in which press freedom is guaranteed.

Table 6.12: Todorov’s model applied to “THISDAY Under Attack”

Todorov’s Five-stage Model	Application to ThisDay’s story
1. State of equilibrium	Peaceful society where the press had the freedom to report on issues.
2. Disruption	<i>ThisDay</i> newspaper offices in Kaduna and Abuja are bombed.
3. Recognition	<i>ThisDay</i> recognizes this disruption and makes it known to the public.
4. Action	<i>ThisDay</i> strengthens its resolve to keep pursuing the truth and reason to ensure that Boko Haram is defeated.
5. Re-equilibrium	Total eradication of Boko Haram and the establishment of a peaceful and safe society where press freedom is guaranteed.

Applying Propp’s character and narrative functions to the story, Boko Haram is positioned as the villain who harms a member of the hero’s family and struggles with the hero. The hero is positioned as the Nigerian media. *ThisDay* newspaper is positioned as the members of the family harmed by the villain. Also, *ThisDay* management are positioned as the dispatcher who send the security agencies (the hero) on a quest to “**thoroughly investigate the obviously coordinated attacks and fish out the masterminds**”. Further applying a transitivity analysis to the story, there are three major active participants- Boko Haram; Security Agencies, and *ThisDay*. Boko Haram is described actively with words such as: “**terrorists**”, “**The attacker**”, “**the Kaduna bomber**”. The group is constructed with material processes characterized by verbs like: “**launched**” used to describe the bomb attacks launched by the group. They are also constructed with verbal processes characterized by verbs such as: “**claimed responsibility**”,

“said” used to describe the group’s acknowledgement of the attacks and the reasons for the attacks. The group is also constructed with a relational process in which they “**were going to attack**” again in the future. The security agencies are also constructed as active participants with verbal processes supported by verbs such as: “**confirmed**”, and “**said**”. They are also constructed with relational process characterized by verb phrases where they “**had to resort to firing into the air**”. Lastly, *ThisDay* is constructed as an active participant with mainly verbal processes characterized by verbs such as: “**issued**”, “**said**”, “**called on**” attributed to various members of staff of *ThisDay* who confirmed or described the attacks.

The story constructs a set of binary oppositions in which Boko Haram is set in opposition to the Nigerian media. Boko Haram is described as “**terrorists**” who “**launched simultaneous bomb attacks** against a representative of the Nigerian media (*ThisDay*).

Table 6.13: Table showing binary oppositions in “THISDAY Under Attack”

Boko Haram	The Nigerian Media
“terrorists”	patriots
Bad/Evil	Good
“would attack more media houses”	Undeterred

6.3.2.3. Leadership Newspaper

Under Attack: Media under siege as Boko Haram bombs *ThisDay, Sun, The Moment*

This lead story was published by *Leadership* newspaper on the 27th of April, 2012. It is another lead story that reports about the attacks on media houses in Abuja and Kaduna by Boko Haram. Like all other news stories, this story is structured as a narrative, and is chronologically divided into several sections, which include eye-witness accounts; reactions towards the attacks by prominent Nigerians and organisations; and Boko Haram’s claim of responsibility of the attacks.

The lead story begins with details of the bomb attacks. This is followed by eye-witness accounts and a statement by *ThisDay* newspaper management. In addition, the story includes excerpts from comments/ reactions to the bomb attacks by: Former FCT minister, El-Rufai; Newspaper Proprietors' Association of Nigeria (NPAN); and President Goodluck Jonathan. For added credibility, excerpts from each person and group's speech/comments and statements are included in the story. The lead story also includes the State Security Service's (SSS) account of events especially in relation to the Kaduna bomb attack. The source of this account is attributed to the SSS Deputy Director, Marilyn Ogar's statement. As with the reactions by Prominent Nigerians and organisations, excerpts from her statement are included for credibility. The lead story concludes with Boko Haram's claim of responsibility for the attacks and the group's threats for more future attacks gains the media.

As with many of the lead stories under analysis, there is a high degree of intertextuality- both internal and external. However, the internal form is more manifest. The external form of intertextuality occurs only when the story references a news story/ interview with Boko Haram spokesperson by "**an internet medium**". The internal form of intertextuality is manifested through direct quotations from statements, press releases from prominent personalities and organisations as well as indirect quotations where the contents of statements and comments are summarized by the author(s).

Applying Todorov's five-stage model for narrative analysis to the story, the initial state of equilibrium is implied as a peaceful society in which press freedom is guaranteed especially when it relates to reporting Boko Haram issues. The disruption occurs when this press freedom is attacked via the bomb attacks on newspaper offices in Abuja and Kaduna. *Leadership* newspaper and other prominent Nigerians recognize this disruption and speak on it making it public.

Security agencies take action to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice to establish a re-equilibrium of a society free from Boko Haram activities and where press freedom is guaranteed.

Table 6.14: Todorov’s model applied to “Under Attack: Media under siege as Boko Haram bombs *ThisDay, Sun, The Moment.*”

Todorov’s Five-Stage Model	Application to Leadership’s story
1. State of equilibrium	A peaceful society in which press freedom is guaranteed especially when it relates to reporting Boko Haram issues.
2. Disruption	Boko Haram attacks the media by bombing media offices in Kaduna and Abuja.
3. Recognition	<i>Leadership</i> newspaper and prominent Nigerians and organisations recognize this disruption and make it public by speaking.
4. Action	Security agencies take action to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice.
5. Re-equilibrium	A society free from Boko Haram activities and where there is freedom of the press.

Applying Propp’s character and narrative functions to the story, positions Kaduna residents as the hero who struggles with the villain (the bomber) and saves the princess (Staff of *ThisDay, the Sun, and The Moment* in Kaduna). The suicide bombers and Boko Haram are positioned as the villain who cause harm to members of the family (the media). The U.S is positioned as the donor who supplies the hero (The Nigerian Government is also positioned as hero) with a magical agent of “**security, political and economic support**”.

Further analysing the transitivity patterns in the story, there are four active participants identified in the story. Firstly, the Kaduna residents are constructed as active participants with material and

relational processes. They are constructed as **“some gallant Nigerians”** and **“brave members of the public”** who **“challenged”** **“subdued”** **“risked their lives”** **“were injured”** and **“ were confirmed killed”**. Secondly, the Security agencies are also constructed as active participants in the story with mainly verbal processes. They are referred to as **“SSS”** who **“disclosed”** **“identified”** and **“expressed hope”**. In addition, Boko Haram is also constructed as an active participant. They are constructed with verbal, material and relational processes. They are **“members of the Boko Haram sect”** **“one of the assailants”** **“the bombers”** who **“carried out”** **“fired several shots”** **“said”** **“told”** **“has claimed responsibility”** and **“have just started”** attacks against the media. Lastly, the media are constructed as active participants in the story. They are positioned as objects of the attacks by Boko Haram and are constructed with mainly relational processes. They are **“the media”** **“journalists”** **“media organisations”** **“the press”** who **“were hit”** and **“was almost brought down”**.

The lead story constructs binary oppositions in which Boko Haram is positioned as being in opposition against the media. Boko Haram is **“insensitive, barbaric and retrogressive”** and launch **“unwarranted attack on press freedom”**.

Table 6.15: Table showing binary oppositions in “Under Attack: Media under siege as Boko Haram bombs *ThisDay*, *Sun*, *The Moment*.”

Boko Haram	The Media
“insensitive”	Sensitive
“barbaric”	benevolent
“retrogressive”	Progressive
Righteous	Sinful
Truthful	Liars
Want positive media campaign	“engaged in negative media campaign” against the group
Want fair reportage by the media	Not fair in their reportage of the group
Intimidating	“would not be intimidated”
Misrepresented	“deliberately misrepresents Boko Haram”

6.3.2.4. Daily Trust Newspaper How suicide bomber hit *Thisday* office

This lead story was published by *Daily Trust* on the 27th of April 2012. It is, like the others, a lead story that reports on the bomb attacks against the media by Boko Haram. The story presupposes that the reader is familiar with the news about the bombings, therefore, it takes a different angle in its reportage. This story is concerned with describing how the “**suicide bomber**’ gained access into the newspaper offices in Abuja and Kaduna. This is evidenced by the details presented in the lead: “**THE suicide bomber who rammed into the Abuja offices of (*Thisday*) newspaper was first denied entry at the back entrance before he drove in through the main gate in an Isuzu sports-utility-vehicle, witnesses said**” (*Daily Trust*, 27 April, 2012:

1). The story attributes its source of information to eye-witnesses and security agencies officials. The story also includes a statement by the President condemning the attack. For added credibility, quotes from the statement are included. It further includes Boko Haram's claim of responsibility for the attacks. This piece of information, like all the other cover stories is credited to Boko Haram's spokesperson's interview with *Premium Times*. **"A news website, *Premium Times*, last night claimed to have spoken to a purported spokesman for Boko Haram claiming responsibility for the attacks yesterday"** (*Daily Trust*, 27 April, 2012: 5). The newspaper, because of past experiences of harassment by the government and security agencies, as well as Boko Haram, distances itself from any issues of credibility that might arise from the report. The author(s) achieve this by adding a caveat/disclaimer: **"*Daily Trust* could not independently verify the authenticity of the report. Boko Haram's style of issuing statements has been through teleconferences or posting YouTube videos. There was no such message from yesterday"** (*Daily Trust*, 27 April, 2012: 5).

Like all the other lead stories, there is a high degree of intertextuality, both the internal and external forms. The internal form is visible through direct quotations such as **"He said..."** and ostensible direct quotations shown in reporting the President's statement. Here, the newspaper reports on the content of the President's statement including some of his words for effect. The external form of intertextuality is manifest through reference to *Premium Times* and Boko Haram's alleged interview. It is referred to as **"The *Premium Times* report..."**

Applying Todorov's five-stage model of narrative analysis as with the other lead stories, the initial state of equilibrium is implied as a peaceful society where press freedom is guaranteed. The disruption is when the suicide bombers attack the newspaper offices in Abuja and Kaduna. *Daily Trust* recognizes this disruption and makes it known by reporting it. The Federal

Government takes action via the security agencies to continue to uphold citizens' constitutional rights to freedom of expression and press freedom in particular, to attain a re-equilibrium of a Boko Haran free society where press freedom and freedom of expression is guaranteed.

Table 6.16: Todorov's model applied to "How suicide bomber hit *Thisday* office"

Todorov's Five-Stage Model	Application to Cover story
1. Equilibrium	A peaceful society where press freedom is guaranteed.
2. Disruption	Suicide bombers attack newspaper offices in Abuja and Kaduna.
3. Recognition	<i>Daily Trust</i> recognizes this disruption and makes it known by reporting it.
4. Action	The Federal Government takes action via the security agencies to continue to uphold citizens' constitutional rights to freedom of expression and press freedom in particular.
5. Re-equilibrium	A Boko Haran free society where press freedom and freedom of expression is guaranteed.

Propp's character and narrative functions applied to this story, positions the Suicide bomber as the villain who harms a member of a family. Also, the Kaduna residents are positioned as the hero's helper who "**chased and caught**" the villain (the suicide bomber). The security agencies are positioned as the hero who struggles with the villain.

Applying a transitivity analysis, there are three major participants within the story- the witnesses, the SSS, and the President. All three participants are constructed as active participants with mainly verbal processes. They are characterized by verbs such as: "**said**" "**told**" and "**narrated**".

This lead story also constructs a set of binary oppositions in which Boko Haram is in opposition against the Nigerian media. Boko Haram is described as “**misguided, horrendous and wicked**” “**criminal elements**” who are waging a war against the Nigerian media.

Table 6.17: Table showing binary oppositions in “How suicide bomber hit *Thisday* office”

Boko Haram	The Nigerian Media
“misguided”	Informed
“horrendous”	nonthreatening
“wicked”	Virtuous
“criminal elements”	Law abiding
professional	“Not professional”
misrepresented	Biased
Bad/Evil	Good

6.3.3. Post-April Media Attacks

6.3.3.1. Vanguard Newspaper

Boko Haram top shot killed- JTF

This lead story was published by *Vanguard* newspaper on the 18th of September, 2012. It is one of several stories of the Nigerian government's success in tackling the Boko Haram issue. It is a report on the Joint Military Task Force (JTF)'s claims that it had killed a Boko Haram "top shot". The story includes eye-witness accounts from anonymous officials of the task force. However, these accounts differ from the official account by the JTF spokesman. Thus by attributing the story to the JTF (via the headline) the newspaper upholds the official statement as the truth. According to the newspaper: "**Lt Iweha Ikedichi, a military spokesman in the region [...] told journalists that soldiers had only killed one man, the Boko Haram spokesman**" (*Vanguard*, 18 September, 2012: 5). For further credibility, excerpts of his comments are included: "**we carried out a raid this morning around Hotoro general area where we killed a member of a terrorist group and arrested two during the operation**" (*Vanguard*, 18 September, 2012: 5).

There are elements of intertextuality in the story- both internal and external. The internal elements are expressed through indirect quotations by summarizing the eye-witness accounts; and direct quotation from the JTF's spokesman's comments. The external form of intertextuality is manifested by referencing *The Associated Press*'s story about the events.

Applying Todorov's five-stage model of analysis to the story, the initial state of equilibrium is implied as a peaceful and safe society. This state of equilibrium is disrupted when the Boko Haram insurgency arises. This disruption is recognised by the Joint Military Task Force (JTF) and they take action against Boko Haram resulting in the killing of a Boko Haram "top shot" to achieve a re-equilibrium of a safe society free from Boko Haram insurgency.

Table 6.18: Todorov’s model applied to “Boko Haram top shot killed- JTF”

Todorov’s Five-Stage Model	Application to Vanguard’s Lead Story
1. State of equilibrium	Safe Society free from terror groups.
2. Disruption	Boko Haram insurgency wages war against the Nigerian society.
3. Recognition	JTF and the Government recognize the disruption and take steps to correct the disruption.
4. Action	The JTF takes action against Boko Haram through military intervention that leads to the death of a Boko Haram top shot.
5. Re-equilibrium	A society free from Boko Haram insurgency.

Applying Propp’s narrative and character functions, the JTF is positioned as the hero who struggles with and conquers the villain (Boko Haram). Further examining the patterns of transitivity, there are two major participants- JTF and Boko Haram. They are both constructed as active participants. The JTF is constructed with verbal processes when they confirm the military operation to *Vanguard* newspaper. This is evidenced by the use of verbs such as: “**told**” “**said**” “**spoke**” “**revealed**”. They are also constructed with material processes to describe the action they take against Boko Haram. They “**Killed**” and “**shot dead**” a Boko Haram member. Boko Haram is constructed as an active participant with mainly relational processes that describe the

state of the group after members were arrested and killed by the JTF. This process is characterized by verbs such as: **“has been killed”** **“were arrested”** and **“was killed”**.

From the story, there is a set of binary oppositions in which Boko Haram is a loser and is in opposition to Nigerians who are winning in the war against Boko Haram.

Table 6.19: Table showing binary oppositions in “Boko Haram top shot killed- JTF”

Boko Haram	Nigeria
Losers	Winners
Dead	Alive
Arrested	Free

6.3.3.2. ThisDay Newspaper

We’re Winning War against *Boko Haram*, Says Jonathan

This lead story was published by *ThisDay* newspaper on the 28th of September 2012. Like the preceding lead story, it is about the Nigerian government’s success in the war against Boko Haram. This story is attributed to Nigeria’s President Goodluck Jonathan: **“President Goodluck Jonathan has expressed optimism that the acts of terrorism being perpetrated by the Islamic sect, *Boko Haram*, which has killed over 1,400 people in the North since 2010, will soon be over”** (*ThisDay*, 28 September, 2012: 1). The story is premised on President Goodluck Jonathan’s interview with *Reuters* (a news agency) during the United Nations’ (UN) General Assembly’s meeting. **“Jonathan told *Reuters* in an interview on Wednesday in New York on the sidelines of the ongoing General Assembly meeting of the United Nations, that the Federal Government’s multifaceted approach in tackling terrorism has started bearing fruit”** (*ThisDay*, 28 September, 2012: 1).

The only evidence of intertextuality within this story is the internal form, which is manifested through direct quotations from excerpts of the President’s comments to *Reuters*.

Applying Todorov’s five-stage model to the story, the initial state of equilibrium is inferred as a peaceful country. The Boko Haram insurgency serves as the disruption. The Government recognizes this disruption and takes action through military force to establish a re-equilibrium of totally eradicating Boko Haram.

Table 6.20: Todorov’s Model applied to “We’re Winning War against *Boko Haram*, Says Jonathan”

Todorov’s Five Stage Model	Application to ThisDay’s Cover Story
1. State of equilibrium (inferred)	Peaceful country.
2. Disruption	Inception of Boko Haram insurgency
3. Recognition	The Federal Government recognizes this disruption and takes action.
4. Action	Government takes a “robust” approach to checkmate Boko Haram using military force, holding talks with Boko Haram, and improving education in the North.
5. Re-equilibrium	Total eradication of Boko Haram.

Applying Propp’s narrative and character functions to the story, President Jonathan is positioned as the dispatcher and the father of the princess who sends the hero (Security Operatives) on a quest to tackle the villain (Boko Haram). The transitivity analysis identifies one major participant. The President is constructed as an active participant with verbal processes characterized by verbs such as: “**told**” “**dropped a hint**” “**made it clear**” “**said**”.

The story creates a good versus bad binary opposition. Boko Haram is constructed as bad in contrast to the Government, who is good. Boko Haram is described as “**terrorists**” who crush

the hopes of the people. The government is constructed as “giving hope to the people” and are winning the war against Boko Haram.

Table 6.21: Table showing binary oppositions in “We’re Winning War against *Boko Haram*, Says Jonathan”

Boko Haram	The Government
Bad/Evil	Good
Losing	“Winning”
“Terrorists”	“Security agents”
Crushing the hopes of the people	“Giving hope to the people”

6.3.3.3. Leadership Newspaper

CHAIRMAN, NORTHERN STATES CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, SAYS... North Loses N25bn Daily To Boko Haram Insurgency

This lead story was published by *Leadership* newspaper on the 10th of May, 2012. This story takes an economic approach to reporting on the Boko Haram insurgency. According to the newspaper: “**Apart from human lives whose value cannot be stated in monetary terms, the northern region is losing no less than N25bn on a daily basis to the activities of Boko Haram**” (*Leadership*, 10 May, 2012: 5). To add credibility to this statement, the story cites as its source, the Chairman of the Northern State’s Chambers of Commerce: “**This disclosure was made by Alhaji Ahmad Rabi, chairman of the Conference of Northern States Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture, in an exclusive chat with LEADERHIP yesterday in Abuja**” (*Leadership*, 10 May, 2012: 5). The story also includes excerpts from Rabi’s comments. In addition, the story also reports on an ultimatum given to the governors of Northern states by the Arewa Youth Forum (AYF) to curb the activities of Boko Haram. “A

pan-northern youth movement, Arewa Youth Forum (AYF), yesterday told governors of the Northern region to “leave the stage” if they cannot chart a roadmap on how an amicable resolution could be reached between members of the Boko Haram sect and the federal government” (*Leadership*, 10 May, 2012: 5).

The only form of intertextuality in this lead story is the internal form which is manifested through the direct quotations of Rabiou and the AYF’s comments.

Applying Todorov’s five-stage model to the story, the initial state of equilibrium is a Pre-Boko Haram society where businesses boomed in the North. This state of peace is disrupted by the emergence of the Boko Haram insurgency. This disruption is recognised when businesses do not exist anymore due to fear of Boko Haram. The Government takes action by making efforts to fix the infrastructural problems and tackle the security challenge. This is to establish a re-equilibrium of a safe and secure society in which people can conduct businesses without fear.

Table 6.22: Todorov’s model applied to “CHAIRMAN, NORTHERN STATES CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, SAYS... North Loses N25bn Daily To Boko Haram Insurgency”

Todorov’s Five-Stage Model	Application to Leadership’s Story
1. State of equilibrium	Pre-Boko Haram Nigeria where businesses boomed in the North.
2. Disruption	Emergence of Boko Haram insurgency.
3. Recognition	Disruption is recognised when businesses do not exist anymore due to fear.
4. Action	The Government makes efforts to fix the infrastructural problems and tackle the security challenge.
5. Re-equilibrium	Safe and secure society in which people can conduct businesses without fear.

Propp’s narrative and character functions position Rabiú as the dispatcher who makes the lack (economic downturn due to Boko Haram insurgency) known and sends the hero (Northern Governors) on a quest to **“tackle the security challenge in the region”**. The Arewa Youth Forum (AYF) is positioned as the hero who exposes the false hero (the Chairman of the Northern Governors’ Forum) who continues to **“watch helplessly as such a crisis situation continued to unfold in the region...”**

A transitivity analysis identifies three major participants in the story- Rabiú, AYF, and Boko Haram. Rabiú is constructed as an active participant with mainly verbal processes characterized by the verbs: **“said”** and **“lamented”**. The AYF is also constructed as an active participant with mainly verbal processes. They **“told” “described” “stated” “lamented”** and **“said”**. Boko

Haram is also an active participant with relational processes characterized by verb phrases like: **“has crippled”** the economy and **“has continued unabated”**.

6.3.3.4. Daily Trust Newspaper

Boko Haram: Madallah bomb blast mastermind captured

This lead story was published on the 22nd of June 2012. It is a form of conclusion to the series of stories that followed the Christmas 2011 bomb blasts in Madallah, the arrest and escape of a Boko Haram suspect, the suspension of the police commissioner negligent in the suspect's escape. This story reports on the eventual arrest of the mastermind/ brain behind the bomb attacks on Christmas day. **“The man suspected to be the alleged brain behind the attack on a church in Madalla, Niger State on Christmas day, Habibu Bama, has been critically wounded and captured in Damaturu, military sources said yesterday”** (*Daily Trust*, 22 June, 2012: 1).

The story also includes a report on the United States labelling Boko Haram leader, Shekau as a terrorist and putting him on their terror list. **“[...] the United States (US) designated Abubakar Shekau, the leader of Boko Haram and two others as terrorists [...] But the US stopped short of putting the group as a whole on its terror list”** (*Daily Trust*, 22 June, 2012: 1). The newspaper attributes the information in the story to sources that include: military sources, an unidentified source, a security source and a statement from the U.S. State Department.

The story includes both internal and external forms of intertextuality. The internal form is evidenced in the inclusion of direct quotations from military sources, and security sources about the details of Bama's arrest. It is also manifested through indirect quotations of the US State Department's statement about placing Boko Haram's leader on their terror list. The external form of intertextuality is evidence in the newspaper's reference to previous news stories about: Boko

Haram uprising in 2009; the capture and killing of Boko Haram leader; and Boko Haram attacks on churches in Kaduna a few days prior to the publication of the story.

Applying Todorov’s narrative analysis model to the story, the initial state of equilibrium is inferred as a relatively peaceful society. The disruption is also implied as the emergence of the Boko Haram insurgency. This disruption is recognised by the government who delegate the security agencies and the army to take action and combat the insurgency. This story is centred on the actions of the Nigerian army to curb Boko Haram, thus the action is the arrest of the Madallah bomb blast mastermind. This arrest moves a step further in the quest to achieve a re-equilibrium of a Society free from Boko Haram.

Table 6.23: Todorov’s model applied to “Boko Haram: Madallah bomb blast mastermind captured”

Todorov’s Five-stage Model	Application to the Story
1. Equilibrium	A relatively peaceful society.
2. Disruption	The emergence of the Boko Haram insurgency.
3. Recognition	The government recognises the disruption and delegates security agencies and the army to take action and combat the group.
4. Action	The army take action by arresting the Madalla bomb blast mastermind.
5. Re-equilibrium	A Boko Haram free society.

Applying Propp’s narrative and character functions to the lead story positions Boko Haram as the villain. Shekau and Bama are both positioned as helpers to the villain. The military and security agencies are positioned as the Hero who struggles with the villain and conquers through the arrest of the Madallah bomb blast mastermind, Habibu Bama. Further applying a transitivity

analysis, there are three major participants identified- Boko Haram, the U.S, and the Military. The U.S is constructed as an active participant with mainly verbal processes characterized by verbs such as: **“said” “designed”**. These verbs describe the process of the U.S’ announcement about Boko Haram leader being on its terror list. The Nigerian military is constructed as an active participant with verbal processes characterized by verbs such as **“said”** and **“told”**. These verbs are used to provide the media with information about the arrest of Bama. Lastly, Boko Haram is constructed as an active participant with predominantly relational processes characterized by verb phrases like: **“has been critically wounded”** and **“was shot”**.

The story constructs a set of binary oppositions in which the Nigerian military is the “winner” and constructed in opposition to Boko Haram who in this case are the “losers”.

Table 6.24: Table showing binary oppositions in “Boko Haram: Madallah bomb blast mastermind captured”

Nigerian Military	Boko Haram
Good	Bad/Evil
Winners	Losers
Victor	Vanquished



6.3.4. Editorial Analysis

6.3.4.1. Vanguard Editorial Analysis

Boko Haram: Kudos to Our Security Forces

Vanguard's editorial was published on the 16th of February, 2012. The editorial is a nine paragraphed piece that praises the security agencies in Nigeria for their role in the war against the Boko Haram insurgency. The author(s) eulogize the security forces for the victory wrought so far in tackling Boko Haram. The editorial draws on a combination of the three varieties of rhetoric discourse- forensic, epideictic, and deliberative rhetoric. However, based on the central theme of the editorial, which is to praise the security forces, the primary rhetoric/argumentation is the epideictic rhetoric. This is evidenced by the accolades and eulogies heaped on the security forces. This is supported by Richardson's (2007) assertion that the epideictic rhetoric is concerned with proving someone or something worthy of admiration (Richardson, 2007: 157). Also, by discussing some of the activities of Boko Haram as well as the actions of the security forces against the group, the editorial draws on a forensic rhetoric. This is based on the argument that forensic rhetoric focuses on the justice and injustice of actions committed by certain members of society (Richardson, 2007: 157). Furthermore, the editorial urges the security agencies as well as well-meaning Nigerians to press on and not to relent in their roles to ensure that the Boko Haram insurgency comes to an end, thus drawing on a deliberative rhetoric.

The editorial begins as a eulogy of the security agencies/forces' actions in eradicating the Boko Haram insurgency: **"it is with total delight and appreciation that we note the increasing capacity of our law enforcement agencies to come to terms with the unusual terrorist challenges posed to the nation by the Boko Haram Islamist insurgency in various parts of northern Nigeria"** (*Vanguard*, 16 February, 2012: 18). The editorial further gives a background information about the activities of Boko Haram since its inception: **"[...] the group [...] made a**

surprising resurgence after it was crushed in 2009 by the regime of the late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, everybody in the society was a victim because the group started targeting police and military facilities at will. They issued threats and lived up to their words. They served notice on their next targets and in spite of efforts by the security agencies they were able to pull off stunning raids that left hundreds of citizens dead or injured and property in ruins. They even sent gunmen to kill Baba Fugu, the Father-in-law of Boko Haram's slain leader, Yusuf Mohammed, a day after a conciliatory visit by former President Olusegun Obasanjo at the instance of the Federal Government. An atmosphere of fear reigned supreme, as nobody, not even the President, was seen to be safe from the rampaging group" (*Vanguard*, 16 February, 2012: 18).

Because at the heart of rhetorical argumentation is the mode of persuasion⁷, the editorial uses pathos/emotions to "move the audience from a state of fear and despair to a state of hope and resilience" (Richardson, 2007). The following excerpt from the editorial supports this argument: "We seem to be well on the way to this juncture, as more and more patriotic Nigerians have started shaking off the climate of fear" (*Vanguard*, 16 February, 2012: 18). The editorial ends with praises for the security agencies for their efforts in restoring the country to some semblance of normalcy as well as ensuring that Boko Haram is totally defeated: "Once again, we doff our hats to the men and women under arms empowered by the constitution to preserve the peace, law and order of the nation. They have done us proud so far" (*Vanguard*, 16 February, 2012: 18).

The Vanguard editorial has a high degree of intertextuality. This is based on the notion that texts cannot be studied in isolation but must be understood in relation to other texts (Richardson,

⁷ The mode of persuasion is the strategy that the arguer takes in persuading the audience (Richardson, 2007).

2007: 100). The intertextuality of the editorial is manifested through the editorial's reference to prior news stories such as: news stories on Boko Haram's activities since the group's re-emergence after the killing of its leader; news stories about security agencies' discoveries and victories against the group; news stories about the gestures to help in eliminating the group by western countries (such as: the USA, UK, Israel, South Korea, etc); news stories about the government's attempts to dialogue with the group; and news stories of patriotic and prominent Nigerians that speak against the activities of Boko Haram. The editorial also has elements of interdiscursivity⁸. This is evidenced in the editorial's creative and complex use of the following discourses: security, war, health, religion, politics and legal.

Firstly, the editorial draws on a security discourse by referencing an atmosphere of fear in which lives and property were not safe because of the security challenges posed by Boko Haram. The following excerpt portrays this: “[...] **they were able to pull off stunning raids that left hundreds of citizens dead or injured and property in ruins [...] an atmosphere of fear reigned supreme, as nobody [...] was seen to be safe from the rampaging group**” (*Vanguard*, 16 February, 2012: 18). Secondly, the editorial applies a war discourse by implicitly referencing a war between Boko Haram and the Nigerian security agencies. “[...] **we are getting to understand the enemy [...]**”. Thirdly, by referring to Boko Haram as a virus capable of spreading to other parts of the world, the editorial employs a health discourse: “[...] **a virus which, if not tackled, will spread to other parts of the world**”. In addition, the editorial draws on a religious discourse when it refers to the religious beliefs of Boko Haram's Islam: “[...] **implacable group committed only to the imposition of their own form of Islamic rule [...]**”. Also, by asking that we stop seeing Boko Haram through the prism of politics, the editorial

⁸ Interdiscursivity is a combination of discourses used within a text.

references a political discourse: **“We must stop seeing the Boko Haram threat through the prism of politics [...]”**.

Lastly, the editorial draws on a legal discourse by discussing how Boko Haram ideologies are counter to the constitution: **“[...] their own form of Islamic rule which runs counter to our constitution [...]”**. This discourse is also foregrounded when the editorial reminds the security agencies on how to make progress in their constitutional duty of protecting the citizens of Nigeria: **“For our security agencies to continue making progress in their constitutional duty to protect all citizens, they need the cooperation of all Nigerians”**.

A narrative analysis is applied to the editorial using Todorov’s five- stage model of narrative analysis as well as Propp’s character and narrative functions. Using Todorov’s five-stage model, the period of relative peace prior to the re-emergence of Boko Haram serves as the initial state of equilibrium. The disruption is the surprising resurgence of the group in 2009, after President Umaru Musa Yar’Adua’s crushing of the group. This disruption is recognised by the group’s issuance of threats and the subsequent manifestation of the threats through the killings and injuring of citizens as well as loss of property. The attempts to restore equilibrium is manifested through the actions taken by the security forces against the group. The re-instatement of the equilibrium is the implied total eradication of Boko Haram activities.

Table 6.25: Table showing Todorov’s model of narrative analysis applied to Vanguard’s editorial.

Todorov’s Model	Application to Vanguard Editorial
1. State of equilibrium	Period of peace prior to the re-emergence of Boko Haram
2. Disruption	Surprising resurgence of the group after President Umaru Musa Yar’Adua’s crushing of the group.
3. Recognition	Issuance of threats by the group, and the manifestation of the threats through the killings of citizens and loss of property.
4. Action	The steps taken by the security forces against the group.
5. Re-equilibrium	Total eradication of Boko Haram activities.

Applying Propp’s narrative and character functions to the editorial, the Nigerian security agencies are constructed as the hero sent on a quest by the dispatcher, the Nigerian Government, to tackle the Boko Haram insurgency. The Boko Haram group is constructed as the villain that causes the disruption, struggles with the hero and harms the citizens who are positioned as the members of the family. The editorial further positions foreign nations as the helper who is ready to provide the hero with help in the quest. According to the editorial, “**they (foreign countries) are ready to join forces with us to eliminate a virus [...]**”. Alberski (2012) argues that some characters may fill more than one role (Alberski, 2012: 16). Based on this, Vanguard newspaper

is also positioned as the dispatcher who sends the hero on a quest by telling the security agencies that **“the work ahead is still a lot”**.

In analysing the patterns of transivity within the editorial, the three components of transivity analysis are applied:

- The participants involved in the process (security agencies, Boko Haram, and Nigerian Citizens)
- The construction of the process, and
- The processes used.

The security agencies are positioned as one of the three participants in the transitive process of the editorial. They are constructed as **“the Nigerian Army and the State Security Services (SSS)”**, **“men and women under arms”**. They are constructed with the relational process of being: **“are gradually getting on top of”** the situation. They are also constructed with the material process of being **“empowered by the constitution to preserve the peace, law and order of the nation”**. Boko Haram is positioned as a second participant in the transitive process of the editorial. They are constructed as **“Islamic terrorist network”**, a **“rampaging group”**. They are actively constructed as the subject of the victimizing of the citizens of Nigeria as they **“started targeting...”** They are attributed with verbal processes, they **“issued threats”**, **“served notice”**; they are also constructed with material process of action: **“sent gunmen to kill”**. Nigerian citizens are positioned as the third participant in the transitive process of the editorial. They are constructed as **“patriotic Nigerians”** (and attributed with relational process of being) who **“have started shaking off the climate of fear”**.

The editorial constructs a number of varying binary oppositions. Boko Haram is constructed as a binary opposite of security agencies, in which Boko Haram is the cowardly **“enemy”** that is

“targeting police and military facilities at will” and is a “threat” on the one hand. On the other hand, the security agencies are the “brave and gallant” friends that are “getting on top of this ugly situation” and are a haven/ refuge for people. In addition, Boko Haram is constructed as a binary opposite of Nigerian Citizens, against whom Boko haram, “agents of national disintegration” “were able to pull off stunning raids that left hundreds of citizens dead or injured”. The Nigerian citizens are constructed as “patriotic” Nigerians who are “victims” of Boko Haram. Lastly, Islam is constructed as a binary opposite of the Nigerian constitution, in which the constitution is constructed as the ultimate law of the land and Islam “runs counter to the constitution”.

Table 6.26: Table showing binary oppositions in Vanguard’s editorial.

Boko Haram	Security Agencies
“enemy”	friend
“threat”	Haven/refuge
Cowardly	“brave and gallant”
“targeting police and military facilities at will”	“getting on top of this ugly situation”
Boko Haram	Nigerian Citizens
“agents of national disintegration”	“Patriotic”
“were able to pull off stunning raids that left hundreds of citizens dead or injured”	“everybody in the society was a victim”
Islam	Nigerian Constitution
“runs counter to the constitution”	Supreme law of the land

6.3.4.2. **ThisDay Editorial Analysis** **Dealing with the Boko Haram Within**

ThisDay's editorial was published on the 17th of January, 2012. The editorial has eight paragraphs. It is written as a reaction to the President's comments a few days prior, that Boko Haram had infiltrated all the levels of government and the law enforcement agencies. The author(s) berate the President for making such accusations without any concrete plans about how to deal with the issue. Like *Vanguard*'s editorial, the editorial employs a combination of the three varieties of rhetoric discourse- forensic, epideitic, and deliberative rhetoric. The editorial, with the overall theme of imploring the government on ways to tackle the Boko Haram insurgency, is primarily a deliberative rhetoric. This is evidenced by the following issues raised by the editorial: "[...] it is imperative to ask what the administration is doing regarding these fifth columnists in its ranks." "the government must now invent a workable strategy to tackle the menace of Boko Haram" (*ThisDay* 17 January, 2012: 15). By alluding to the President's speech (accusing Boko Haram of infiltrating his government), which serves as the background information to the editorial, the editorial adopts a forensic rhetoric. This is based on the assertion that forensic rhetoric has accusation as a means (Richardson, 2007). In addition, by condemning the President for his comments, the editorial draws on the epideitic rhetoric. The following excerpts buttress this: "It is indeed an act of cowardice for the federal government to admit that it has in its ranks terrorist collaborators and sympathisers [...]" "The Presidential lamentation about Boko Haram members in government is unhelpful" (*ThisDay* 17 January, 2012: 15).

The editorial starts with snippets of information that form the basis of the editorial, which is the President's claims that Boko Haram had infiltrated the government: "On Sunday, January 8,

President Goodluck Jonathan declared that sympathisers of Boko Haram have infiltrated all arms of the government and the nation's armed forces [...]". Some excerpts of the President's speech are included as evidence for credibility: **"Some of them are in the parliament/legislative arm of government, while some of them are even in the judiciary. Some of them are also in the armed forces, the police and other security agencies. That is how much complex the situation is"** (*ThisDay* 17 January, 2012: 15). After the background information about the President's comments, the editorial proceeds to deliberate on how those comments could potentially affect the eradication of the Boko Haram insurgency. **"It is not just enough for the president to make such statements, he must have an action plan to deal with the situation [...] Jonathan should show strength and unflinching resolve to nip the situation in the bud even before these sponsors of terror could wreak more havoc on Nigeria"** (*ThisDay* 17 January, 2012: 15).

The editorial further becomes an invective against the President as well as the security agencies due to their inability to flush out these Boko Haram infiltrators in the government. This is evidenced in the following excerpts: **"What we find particularly disturbing is that the president would paint such a picture of helplessness [...] the nation's security agencies have not shown sufficient capacity to handle the current crisis [...] we consider it a national shame that not one of these alleged sympathisers of terror in official quarters have been arrested and brought to book. It is indeed an act of cowardice for the federal government to admit that it has in its ranks terrorists collaborators and sympathisers and yet looks helpless and confused as to how to deal with the rogue elements. If the president no longer trusts his security and intelligence chiefs, he should not hesitate in relieving them of their duties"** (*ThisDay* 17 January, 2012: 15). The editorial shifts focus from censuring the President

and the Security Agencies to discussing ways that to ensure that Boko Haram is combated: “[...] **the government must now invent a workable strategy to tackle the menace of Boko Haram** [...] we have suggested [...] that the government should adopt a carrot and stick approach in its face-off with the Boko Haram sect and in this regard we advise that [...] the Nigerian government should not give up completely on the possibility of dialogue with Boko Haram [...]”(*ThisDay* 17 January, 2012: 15). The editorial berates the President for his comments one more time before closing with a demand from Nigerians to the government regarding the Boko Haram insurgency: **“The Presidential lamentation about Boko Haram members in government is unhelpful. What Nigerians demand is that perpetrators of violence and their sponsors be fished out and be made to face the law”** (*ThisDay* 17 January, 2012: 15).

The editorial, while using the President’s speech as proof, uses emotions/pathos as its mode of persuasion to stir up the government from its current state of helplessness, hopelessness and confusion to that of taking charge/courage and bravado in order to completely eradicate Boko Haram. According to the editorial, “[...] **Jonathan should show strength and unflinching resolve to nip the situation in the bud** [...]” (*ThisDay* 17 January, 2012: 15).

The editorial includes certain elements of intertextuality, although not as much as that of Vanguard newspaper. However, there are forms of both internal and external intertextuality in the editorial. The internal intertextuality is manifested through reference to President Jonathan’s reported speech. This form of intertextuality is portrayed via direct and indirect quotation. The lead is an indirect quotation because it provides “a summary of the content of what was said and not the actual words” (Richardson, 2007: 102). “[...] **President Goodluck Jonathan declared that sympathisers of Boko Haram have infiltrated all arms of the government and the nation’s armed forces**” (*ThisDay* 17 January, 2012: 15). The editorial, by giving excerpts of the

President's speech, also uses direct quotation. The external intertextuality is manifested through the editorial's reference to previous news stories such as: news stories and editorials about how the security agencies have "**not shown sufficient capacity to handle the current crisis**" (*ThisDay* 17 January, 2012: 15); a previous editorial, in which the government is advised to "**adopt a carrot and stick approach**" to tackle Boko Haram; news stories about whether or not the federal government should dialogue with Boko Haram; and the news stories about America's negotiations with the Taliban.

The editorial also includes an infusion of several discourses, resulting in a high degree of interdiscursivity. The discourses that are adopted in the article include: religion, crime, security, and war. The editorial draws on a religious discourse when it reacts to Boko Haram's religious inclinations/beliefs: "**In view of the fact that several mainstream Islamic sects have denounced Boko Haram and their actions as antithetical to Islam, members of the group have lost every right to be regarded as religious fanatics**" (*ThisDay* 17 January, 2012: 15). The discourse of crime is evident in the editorial's choice of crime-related words to describe Boko Haram. This is evident when the editorial refers to the group as a "**murderous gang**". The security discourse is emphasized by referring to Boko Haram insurgency as "**a grave national security challenge**" and a "**current security structure**". Lastly, the editorial employs a war discourse when it references President Jonathan's comments about the Boko Haram insurgency being "**much worse during the civil war**".

Applying Todorov's five-stage model of narrative analysis to the editorial, the initial state of equilibrium is a peaceful society that is free from Boko Haram. The disruption is the infiltration of Boko Haram in the different levels of government and security agencies. The President's comments about Boko Haram infiltrating government and security agencies provides the

recognition of the disruption. The security agencies take action/ make attempts to “deal with” Boko Haram. The re-instatement of the equilibrium is a potential peaceful society without Boko Haram.

Table 6.27: Table showing Todorov’s model of narrative analysis applied to ThisDay’s editorial.

Todorov’s Model	Application to ThisDay’s Editorial
1. State of equilibrium	Peaceful society free from Boko Haram
2. Disruption	Boko Haram infiltrates the levels/ arms of government and security agencies.
3. Recognition	The President’s comments about Boko Haram infiltrating government provides recognition of just how bad Boko Haram really is.
4. Action	The security agencies make attempts to “deal with” Boko Haram.
5. Re-equilibrium	A peaceful Nigeria without Boko Haram.

Applying Propp’s narrative and character functions to the editorial, Boko Haram is positioned as the villain who struggles against the hero, who in this editorial happens to be President Jonathan. An analysis of the patterns of transivity in the editorial constructs President Jonathan as the major participant in the process. He is constructed with verbal processes such as: “declared”, “noted” “lamented”.

6.3.4.3. Leadership Editorial Analysis A Joke Taken too Far

Leadership's editorial was published on the 22nd of January, 2012. The editorial has eight paragraphs. It is written as a reaction to the escape of a Boko Haram suspect from police detention. The writer(s) perceive the escape a part of a national joke in Nigeria. Nigeria is deemed an unserious nation because those compliant in the Boko Haram suspect's escape have not been held accountable. The editorial draws upon a combination of the three varieties of rhetoric discourse/argumentation- forensic, epideitic and deliberative.

The editorial is an invective against the Nigerian society especially those in positions of power. By openly criticizing the "system", especially with regard to insecurity (and Boko Haram), the editorial is primarily an epideitic rhetoric. This is supported by the following excerpts:

"No joke could be more hilarious than this. In a more serious country Ringim as well as Biu and his accomplices would, by now, be made to answer for their gross incompetence" (*Leadership*, 22 January, 2012: 3).

"Daily, the country is plunged into a deeper cycle of insecurity, while perpetrators of crime are seldom brought to book" (*Leadership*, 22 January, 2012: 3).

The editorial also gives background information about the events that led up to the newspaper's stance. By doing this, the editorial employs a forensic rhetoric. The editorial refers to three separate events that have resulted in the way the country is run. First, they allude to the Boko Haram suspect's escape from police custody: **"One whole week has passed since [...] Mallam Kabiru "Sokoto" Umar, allegedly escaped from police custody"** (*Leadership*, 22 January, 2012: 3). Secondly, the editorial mentions the 24 hour ultimatum given to the Inspector-general of police to produce the suspect and the fact that the 24hours are long overdue: **"At least four days have passed since the federal government gave inspector-general of police Hafiz Ringim 24-hour ultimatum to produce the suspect"** (*Leadership*, 22 January, 2012: 3).

Lastly, the editorial refers to an incident in 2005, in which a police officer escaped from police detention after being arrested during investigations into police brutality that resulted in the death of six Igbo traders in Abuja: **“In 2005, for instance, a divisional police officer escaped from a police station just after investigations into the murder of six Igbo traders (“Apo 6”) began. The police are still looking for him”**” (*Leadership*, 22 January, 2012: 3). By mentioning these past events, the editorial, discusses the injustice of Nigeria’s lackadaisical attitude towards criminals and their accomplices within the Nigerian security forces. This foregrounds the editorial’s use of forensic rhetoric/argument.

The editorial also draws upon a deliberative rhetoric. This is achieved by weighing the pros and cons of tackling the issue at hand. The following excerpts support this argument: **“[...] the senate and the national security adviser have launched probes into the alleged bomber’s escape”**” (*Leadership*, 22 January, 2012: 3). **“Both Ringim and Biu are due for retirement in March. Therefore, suspension or dismissal from service would mean little to them. They could have started their terminal leave”** (*Leadership*, 22 January, 2012: 3).

Based on Richardson’s (2007) assertion that deliberative rhetoric is concerned with the future, the editorial ends with an inducement to cause the government/ the president to take action. **“It is up to President Jonathan to decide what to do. But every second wasted in the waiting game counts. His government and the entire nation are being taken to the precipice.”** (*Leadership*, 22 January, 2012: 3).

The editorial has a very high degree of intertextuality, particularly the external form of intertextuality. This is manifested by alluding to and mentioning previous news stories. These news stories include: news stories about Boko Haram suspect, Kabiru Sokoto’s escape from police custody; news stories about the federal government giving the police chief(s) an

ultimatum to ensure that the Boko Haram suspect is rearrested; news stories about President Jonathan's comments that Boko Haram had infiltrated his government; and news stories about police brutality against six Igbo traders that occurred in 2005.

The editorial like the other editorials, has a combination of several discourses that showcase the interdiscursivity elements of the editorial. The discourses present in the editorial include: corruption, insecurity, and crime discourses. The editorial draws upon a discourse of corruption by highlighting the ills of the Nigerian society, especially with respect to how people evade justice in the country. The following excerpts portray this discourse:

“The story peddled by the police to explain the terror suspect’s “escape” suggests that Nigerians and their president could be taken for granted. Nobody has believed it, however.”

“Those who allowed the prime terror suspect to escape must have understood how easy it is to evade justice in the country.”

“Almost on a daily basis, armed robbers “escape” from police cells after their sponsors have “settled” the right people.”

“[...] perpetrators of crime are seldom bought (sic) to book.”

The editorial foregrounds a discourse of insecurity by emphasizing how the spate of insecurity is affecting the Nigerian society. **“Daily, the country is plunged into a deeper cycle of insecurity [...] For Nigerians each day another life is lost at the hands of terrorists and criminals and this adds to the level of fear they experience and further diminishes their already precarious quality of lives”** (*Leadership*, 22 January, 2012: 3). The discourse of crime is manifested through the use of crime related phrases and words such as: **“criminals” “criminals have grown bolder and deadlier” “perpetrators of crime”**.

Applying Todorov's five-stage narrative analysis model to the editorial, the initial state of equilibrium is the arrest of a Boko Haram mastermind who was arrested when the government

seemed to be on top of the issue. The disruption is the escape of the suspect (Kabiru Sokoto) from jail. This disruption is recognised by *Leadership* newspaper when nobody seems culpable in the escape of Kabiru, nothing is being done. The senate and the national security adviser take action by launching probes and investigating the alleged bomber's escape to achieve a re-equilibrium of a crime-free, Boko Haram free society where justice prevails.

Table 6.28: Todorov's model applied to Leadership's editorial.

Todorov's Five-stage Model	Application to <i>Leadership's</i> editorial
1. Equilibrium	Boko Haram mastermind was arrested, and the government seemed to be making progress in the fight against Boko Haram.
2. Disruption	Kabiru Sokoto escapes from jail.
3. Recognition	Leadership recognizes this disruption when nobody seems culpable in Kabiru's escape and nothing seemed to be done.
4. Action	The senate and the national security adviser launch probes into and investigate the alleged bomber's escape.
5. Re-equilibrium	A crime-free and Boko Haram free society where justice prevails.

6.3.4.4. Daily Trust Editorial

BOKO HARAM: Time for ceasefire, talks

This editorial was published on the 29th of February, 2012 by *Daily Trust* newspaper. The editorial is written in response to the back and forth between the federal government and Boko Haram on the pre-requisites to a dialogue between both parties. It is a front page editorial. The editorial, unlike the others, combines only two out of three varieties of rhetoric- Deliberative and forensic. Based on the main theme of the editorial, which is to discuss why both the federal government and Boko Haram should consider dialogue, the editorial relies on the deliberative rhetoric as its primary mode of argumentation to pass its message across. Before delving into the importance of the dialogue, the editorial gives a detailed account of the Boko Haram insurgency so far, as well as the federal government's efforts in tackling them, thereby drawing on the forensic rhetoric as a secondary mode of argumentation.

The editorial begins with an introduction to the group, Boko Haram: **“For nearly two years now, the brutal insurgency launched by the Jama’ atul ahlus Sunnah Lidda’ await wal Jihad, more popularly known as Boko Haram, has gripped this country and become its single biggest security challenge in a long time. Although it began as a low-level campaign of targeted killings and use of Improvised Explosive Devices [IEDs] mostly in the Borno State capital, Maiduguri and environs, the insurgency later snowballed into a major security challenge that has spread to many Northern States and Abuja”** (*Daily Trust*, 29 February, 2012: 1). The following four paragraphs detail some major attacks and the subsequent spread of the group's activities to other Northern states in Nigeria. The editorial also mentions/notes the difficulty being faced by the Federal government and the security agencies in tackling the Boko Haram insurgency: **“... it will be very misleading to think that Boko Haram is about to be defeated. Even if the security agencies are able to reduce its strength, at the**

very least it could be capable of maintaining a low level, maybe decentralized insurgency for years to come” (*Daily Trust*, 29 February, 2012: 52).

The editorial further discusses the importance of dialogue and why the federal government and Boko Haram should view it as an option: “**While the Nigerian government may not be able to end this insurgency militarily, Boko Haram too has no realistic chance of defeating the Nigerian state in a war of attrition, hence the urgent need for talks**” (*Daily Trust*, 29 February, 2012: 52). The editorial concludes with a call for temporary ceasefire by both parties while engaging in a dialogue: “**A ceasefire should be declared by both sides, quickly followed by talks to arrive at a lasting solution**” (*Daily Trust*, 29 February, 2012: 52).

Like the other editorials, there are elements of intertextuality, with a higher degree of the external form of intertextuality. The external form of intertextuality is manifested in the newspaper’s reference to previous news stories such as: stories about the activities of Boko Haram; the government’s actions to combat Boko Haram; stories about calls for a dialogue between the group and the federal government; stories about America and Taliban dialogues; stories about the Good Friday Accords between the Irish Republican Army and the British government. A few elements of internal intertextuality are also evident through indirect quotations of comments made by the President and some key security officials regarding the dialogue.

The editorial also includes a combination of discourses that highlight the interdiscursivity element of the editorial. The discourses present in the editorial include: war, security, and peace discourses. The war discourse is evident by likening the Boko Haram insurgency to some of the world’s biggest wars: “**All sides in this conflict should remember that the world’s big and bitter wars ultimately end up at the dialogue table**”. Furthermore, by emphasizing how unsafe

members of the society are in the face of the Boko Haram dilemma, the editorial draws on a security discourse. “... **it became clear to all that Boko Haram cannot be described as a Northern Muslim militia targeting Christians but represented a common danger to all Nigerians**”. This discourse is also foregrounded by referencing the Boko Haram issue as a “**security challenge**”. In addition, the peace discourse is the main theme of the editorial. This is because dialogue is often a step in ensuring peace between warring/ conflicting parties. By emphasizing the importance of dialogue to the Boko Haram debacle, the editorial foregrounds this discourse of peace.

Applying Todorov’s narrative analysis model to the editorial, the initial state of equilibrium is inferred as a relatively peaceful Nigerian society. This state of equilibrium is disrupted by the emergence of Boko Haram. *Daily Trust* recognizes this disruption and encourages the government to dialogue with Boko Haram for a lasting solution. The parties involved- Boko Haram and the Federal Government- consider dialogue as a step in achieving the re-equilibrium of a Boko Haram free society.

Table 6.29: Todorov’s model applied to *Daily Trust*’s editorial.

Todorov’s Five-Stage Model	Application to <i>Daily Trust</i> ’s Editorial
1. Equilibrium	Relatively peaceful country without Boko Haram.
2. Disruption	Boko Haram insurgency.
3. Recognition	<i>Daily Trust</i> recognizes this disruption and encourages the Federal Government to dialogue with Boko Haram for a lasting solution.
4. Action	Both parties consider dialogue as a step in restoring the peace.
5. Re-equilibrium	A Boko Haram- free society.

Further applying Propp’s narrative and character functions to the editorial, Boko Haram is positioned as the villain who struggles with the hero (the federal government). Nigerians are positioned as the members of the family harmed by the villain. *Daily Trust* is positioned as the dispatcher who sends the hero (FG) on a quest to “**end the carnage blamed on the Boko Haram sect**” through dialogue.

Applying Levi Strauss’ binary opposition model of analysis, Boko Haram is constructed in opposition to the Federal Government. Boko Haram is ‘bad’ and the Federal Government is ‘good’.

Table 6.30: Table showing binary oppositions in *Daily Trust*'s editorial

Boko Haram	Federal Government
Bad	good
“brutal insurgency”	Kind counter-insurgency

Research Question 4: To what extent do ownership and management structures influence the coverage of Boko Haram activities in Nigeria?

6.4. In-depth Interviews

This research question was premised on Adesoji's (2006) argument that the Nigerian press has always been influenced in its approaches and responses to issues based on the ideological disposition of owners and editors (2006: 42). To provide answers to this research question, members of the editorial team of the selected newspapers were interviewed. These editors provided some insight into some of the intricacies involved in reporting Boko Haram activities from the point of view of management staff. The findings of the interviews revealed that the ideologies of the editors, which usually manifested as “Northerness” and “Southerness”, was lacking in the selected newspapers' coverage of Boko Haram activities. Rather, two main themes of Social Responsibility and Professionalism were identified as the driving force in their coverage of Boko Haram. These themes were identified using the grounded theory approach to analysing interview data.

i. Social Responsibility

This theme was borne out of the editors' perceptions of what drives the selected newspapers' reportage of Boko Haram activities. Boko Haram is perceived as a common enemy that affects

the existence of the Nigerian nation, thus the media believe that in light of this, they have a social responsibility to the nation and its citizens. Therefore, national interest supersedes any religious or ethnic differences and sentiments. For *Leadership* and *Vanguard* newspapers, national interest comes first when reporting about Boko Haram activities. According to the Editorial Director of *Leadership* newspaper, Catherine Agbo, this is because “*Leadership* newspaper is a national newspaper with a mission to defend the interests of the Nigerian people”. *Vanguard* newspaper’s managing editor, Eze Anaba, shares the same sentiments about putting national interest first when reporting about Boko Haram activities, however, he also includes social responsibility, public trust and editorial policy as important factors that influence the reportage of Boko Haram activities. For *Daily Trust* and *ThisDay* newspapers, the driving force behind their reportage of Boko Haram activities is the public’s/people’s right to know what is happening. For *ThisDay* newspaper, the Sunday Editor, Tokunbo Adedaja states that “*ThisDay* is guided by the right of the people to know”. According to Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Editor of the Sunday edition of *Daily Trust*, Boko Haram activities are treated as any other breaking news story because “the newspaper is responsible for informing the public about Boko Haram because of the newspaper’s strong presence in the North”. This sense of social responsibility by the newspapers could also be based on the fact that the media, north or south based have been targets of Boko Haram attacks, thus arousing empathy and a sense of responsibility towards the people/public.

ii. Professionalism

This theme arose from the roles that management plays in the selected newspapers’ coverage of Boko Haram activities as well as how reporters/journalists navigate these roles. According to Lawan Danjuma, “*Daily Trust* is a professional media organisation, where the management do not involve themselves in the way reporters and correspondents carry out their jobs”. He said that they were more concerned with keeping reporters safe from Boko Haram threats because they

have more reporters in the North than any other newspaper organisations. According to Catherine Agbo of *Leadership* newspaper, “All reporters are guided by the ethics of the profession in the discharge of their duties and are aware that the newspaper will not use its resources to glorify terror groups or report their activities in a manner that emboldens them and are guided by this.” Thus, management would not interfere in the discharge of duties by members of staff. According to Tokunbo Adedjoja, “*ThisDay* is guided by the core principles of journalism, the company’s motto and the Nigerian constitution, and the gatekeepers (i.e. the management) are aware of this and they strive at all times to adhere to it”. According to Eze Anaba, “the management structures of *Vanguard* do not influence the reportage of Boko Haram activities, rather, editorial policy, social responsibility, national interest, and public trust form the bedrock upon which the activities of Boko Haram are reported by *Vanguard*”. This insistence on the adherence to the journalistic principles of professionalism can be argued to be a result of accusations of bias by Boko Haram against the Nigerian media.

6.5. Discussion of Findings

6.5.1. Research Question One: How do *ThisDay*, *Vanguard*, *Daily Trust* and *Leadership* newspapers frame Boko Haram activities in their representations of the group?

Frames, according to Kuypers (2010), act as central organizing ideas within a narrative account of issues or events that provide the interpretive cues for otherwise neutral facts (2010: 301). Framing offers an alternative to the concepts of bias and objectivity in the news because it is premised on the knowledge that there are several perspectives from which issues can be discussed/considered (Tankard, 2001; Chong & Druckman, 2007; Kuypers, 2010). Using the preceding arguments as a foundation, the framing analysis of the front page/lead stories of the selected newspapers identified the war frame as the dominant frame. This frame determines how the Boko Haram insurgency is perceived by the selected newspapers. This is in line with Gavilan's (2011) statement that because the media are tasked with presenting the news, they create frames from their own experiences (2011: 4). Therefore, drawing from the attacks on the media by Boko Haram, it can be deduced that the selected newspapers perceive the Boko Haram insurgency as a war between Boko Haram and the Nigerian society (represented by agencies such as the government, the military, and the media).

The other frames identified by the framing analysis include: blame and responsibility frame, fear and threats frame, and punishment frame. These frames are offshoots of the dominant war frame. There is a war between the Boko Haram and Nigeria, in which Boko Haram is the enemy that causes fear among the populace by making threats of more attacks against the Nigerian society. Also, based on the war between Boko Haram and Nigeria, there is a lot of back and forth with blame placing and claiming responsibility for attacks. In addition, the newspapers do not fail to warn Boko Haram and its sympathisers that there were consequences for their actions.

Entman (1993) argues that journalists may follow the rules for “objective” reporting and yet convey a dominant framing of the news text that prevents most audience members from making a balanced assessment of a situation (1993: 56). The identified frames also influence how the audiences of the newspapers internalize the Boko Haram insurgency. This is buttressed by the argument that media framing is based on the assumption that how an issue is characterized in news reports influences how it is understood by the audiences (Scheufele & Tewksbury, 2007).

The findings of the framing analysis, especially the fear and threats frame, is in accordance with Powell’s (2011) findings that media coverage of terrorist activities in the U.S perpetuated a culture of fear of Islam by a Christian nation. Therefore, by framing the Boko Haram insurgency as a war, the newspapers inadvertently establish an atmosphere of fear in the Nigerian society.

6.5.2. Research Question Two: How is the North-South polarization of the Nigerian society reflected in the selected newspapers’ coverage of Boko Haram activities?

The challenge of insurgency that has engulfed Nigeria has significantly brought out the strengths and weaknesses in the capacity of the media in covering and reporting issues of diversity and conflict (Pate & Oso, 2017: 2). The preceding statement is true particularly with regard to the Boko Haram insurgency because the North-South divide is not as pronounced as it is in other situations. This is possibly due to the fact that Boko Haram is a common enemy that affects the existence of the Nigerian nation as the media have not been left out of the group’s scourge. The media, north or south based have been targeted by Boko Haram. The group mostly attacks the Northern offices of newspapers and kill/ attack mainly northern-based journalists (Saul, 2008; Ekwueme & Obayi, 2012; Premium Times, 2012; Oyewo & Oyewo, 2016). For instance, in April 2012, *ThisDay* (southern-based) newspaper’s offices were bombed in Abuja and Kaduna (Northern cities). Also, *Daily Trust* newspaper has been at the receiving end of attacks by the group because of the newspaper’s concentration in the North (Reporters without borders, 2012).

While the North-South divide is not obvious in this situation, it is not completely absent. This divide is implied and acknowledged in the response of *Daily Trust* editor, Lawan Danjuma Adamu. He argues that although *Daily Trust* is a national newspaper, it is better qualified than its southern counterparts to report on Boko Haram activities because of the newspaper's strong presence in the north, and because it has more reporters in the north than any other newspapers. The findings from the critical discourse analysis also support the Editor's claim as *Daily Trust* newspaper is the only one out of all four who made efforts to contact Boko Haram to get their side of the story. This confirms the argument that the Nigerian media narrate stories and comment on conflicts based on the location of the media headquarters (Uduak, 2000; Salawu, 2013).

These findings are buttressed by Nevalsky's (2015) findings from the exploration of the variances in newspaper coverage of terrorist attacks in Paris and Borno. The findings showed a difference in coverage based on the level of development in the countries where these attacks took place thus perpetuating an already existing economic divide while reinforcing negative stereotypes. This is similar to the situation in Nigeria in which the North is described as being poorer and less developed than the South. Thus, while the Northern newspapers are predominantly located in the north, they have the advantage of proximity to the environment where the Boko Haram insurgency is rampant unlike their southern counterparts.

6.5.3. Research Question Three: To what extent have the Boko Haram attacks on certain media organisations influenced the selected newspapers' coverage of Boko Haram activities?

To answer this research question, the analysis was divided into two major parts. Analysis of the lead stories and analysis of the editorials. The lead stories were further divided into three sections- Pre April-Media attacks; the April Media attacks, and the Post-April Media attacks.

1. Analysis of Lead Stories

- **Pre-April Media Attacks:** Prior to the April attacks on the media, the newspapers were focused on presenting Boko Haram as a menace and were spewing out information from unnamed unofficial sources. There is an obvious slant in favour of the Government by the newspapers. The lead stories in this section reveal the bias (according to Boko Haram's allegations) favouring the unsubstantiated government's claims about their dealings with Boko Haram. However, *Daily Trust* is the only one that mentions that it made attempts albeit unsuccessfully to get both Boko Haram and the Federal Government's sides of the story. Taking into cognisance Nwankpa (2015) and McQuail's (2013) arguments that in situations such as the Boko Haram insurgency, the principles of fairness and objectivity are unrealistic and the media is allowed in such situations to err on the government's side. As a result, the newspapers are justified in their choices to favour the government's side of the 'conflict'. In addition, however, it also provides a justification for Boko Haram's hatred of the Nigerian media and makes the reasons for the April attacks quite understandable.

- **April Media Attacks:** The lead stories in this section chronicle the attacks on some media organisations by Boko Haram. However, unlike the pre-April attacks lead stories, they all include a statement from Boko Haram claiming responsibility for the attacks as well as the reasons for the attacks. This is interesting because prior to the attacks, the newspapers, with the exception of *Daily Trust*, were not really keen on presenting Boko Haram's side of the story. However, in reporting the attacks against the media, they include the 'why' of the attacks, suddenly realizing that Boko Haram has reasons for their actions.
- **Post-April Media Attacks:** After the April 2012 attacks on *ThisDay* newspaper, the newspapers are still "erring" on the side of the Government, however, the stories are mostly made up of direct quotations from government, military and security agency officials. By doing this, they distance themselves from the Boko Haram versus Federal Government 'drama'. Therefore, it suffices to say that the attacks on *ThisDay* newspaper have influenced the selected newspapers to a certain degree especially when it relates to choice of words and attribution of sources through direct quotations. This is in accordance with White's (2007) argument that these attacks against the media create an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty resulting in self-censorship by journalists and media organisations (2007: 14). Furthermore these choices validate the argument that due to journalists' lack of a common understanding of framing, dominant frames are imposed on the news through the choice of news sources (Entman, 1993; Jasperson, 2003). Thus in this situation, the dominant frames of people in positions of authority, the government, security agencies are 'imposed' on the

audiences of these newspapers making it difficult for them to make their own assessments independently. In addition, the frequency of cover stories detailing Boko Haram activities dwindled after the attacks against the media debacle. There were fewer cover stories in all four newspapers.

2. Editorial Analysis

In addition to the lead stories, editorials of the selected newspapers were analysed. This is because in order to determine the position of a newspaper, its editorial content shows its inclinations towards a specific issue. In the case of reporting on Boko Haram activities, analysing the editorials allowed the researcher to unpack the newspapers' true stance- were they truly in favour of the Government and biased against Boko Haram? Contrary to Boko Haram's accusation of bias against the group and in favour of the Government, the only newspaper whose editorial stance is blatantly in favour of the Government is *Vanguard* newspaper. Their editorial salutes the security forces for their role in the war against Boko Haram. *ThisDay* and *Leadership* newspapers were quite blunt in their critique of the Government's sluggish and seemingly non-chalant approach in ending Boko Haram's activities. However, on the surface, it would seem that they are against the Government, but upon deeper reflection, while they are angry at the Government and security agencies, they want the Government to be more proactive and assertive in their responses to Boko Haram activities. Thus, in a way, they are also quite skewed in favour of the Government. *Daily Trust* newspaper is the only one with a semblance of balance and objectivity. They appeal to both the Government and Boko Haram to stop the attacks and counter-attacks and discuss the way forward through dialogue. They approach the issue quite realistically by telling both the Government and Boko Haram that the war between both parties could not be won through

violence and military strength, rather, it could only end through dialogue. According to the editorial, **“While the Nigerian Government may not be able to end this insurgency militarily, Boko Haram too has no realistic chance of defeating the Nigerian state in a war of attrition, hence the urgent need for talks”** (*Daily Trust*, 2012: 52).

6.5.4. Research Question Four: To what extent do media ownership and management structures influence the coverage of Boko Haram activities in Nigeria?

Reporting conflicts/violence especially those perpetrated by non-state armed groups, such as Boko Haram, raises issues on how the media meet the journalistic standard of objectivity (Norris et al., 2003; Nwankpa, 2015). Based on the responses from the editors interviewed, it can be concluded that with regard to the coverage of Boko Haram activities, the selected newspapers are guided by the principles of professionalism, which includes the adherence to the journalistic principles of truth, fairness, and objectivity. However, in conflict situations such as the Boko Haram insurgency, “journalists such as Martin Bell and Christiane Amanpour have argued that some of these principles- objectivity- are unrealistic and as a result, there is no need for it” (Nwankpa, 2015). This is in line with Eti’s (2009) argument that at the level of policy, the media are expected to report objectively, but the nature of conflict serves as a bane to objective reporting (2009: 96).

In reporting the activities of non-state armed groups, such as Boko Haram, Norris et al. (2003) argue that media coverage is premised on two major questions: does the media err on the side of the armed group lending them legitimacy and credibility as well as unintentionally encouraging further incidents? Do journalistic conventions err on the side of governments due to over reliance on the interpretation offered by public officials, security experts and military commentators with news functioning to reinforce support for political leaders and their security policies? (2003: 1).

Drawing on the preceding argument, the responses from the editors of the selected newspapers show that they seem to err on the side of the government due to their heavy reliance on the interpretation of Boko Haram activities offered by Public officials, security experts and military commentators. However, upon deeper analysis, they also unwittingly err on the side of the non-state armed group, Boko Haram, lending them credibility and legitimacy by constantly publishing threats and statements made by the group, thus encouraging further incidents. This buttresses the assertion that the media and armed groups (such as Boko Haram) enjoy a somewhat symbiotic relationship, in which publicity is important to the armed groups to gain popularity for their actions and the media economically benefit from the coverage of the activities of the armed groups through the sales of their newspapers (Curran et al., 1987; Ekwueme & Obayi, 2012; Isola & Akintayo, 2012; Mu'azu, 2015; Popoola, 2015).

Thus with regard to the coverage of Boko Haram activities, it suffices to say that when reporting about Boko Haram activities, the ownership and management structures in the selected newspapers do not influence the coverage of Boko Haram activities, rather, they are influenced by government and public officials, military and security experts. This is evidenced by the newspapers' constant attribution of information and headlines to sources of authorities like government officials and security experts. These findings are in tangent with Owala et al.'s (2013) findings from their research on how media bias influences the terrorism discourse in a Kenyan newspaper. Their findings revealed that the presence of bias in the newspaper was caused by discourse access and discourse structures used in the news articles. They described the discourse access as those actors whose opinions were presented as sources of information. They further identify these actors as sources of authorities such as reporters of news, religious leaders, government security agents and politicians. As a result, the discourse access given to these actors

led to the discourse structures used in the coverage of terrorist activities which subsequently led to the creation of bias in the news.

6.5 Conclusion

This chapter presented the findings of the framing analysis, the critical discourse analysis as well as the findings of the in-depth interviews.



CHAPTER SEVEN

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1. Introduction

This chapter provides a summary of the findings of the study. It also includes conclusions drawn from the study. The chapter ends with recommendations based on the findings of the study and suggests some possible areas for further research.

7.2. Summary of findings

The overall aim of the study was to investigate if and how identity politics vis-a-vis the North-South Polarisation of the Nigerian society is validated in the media through newspaper coverage of the activities of non-state armed group, Boko Haram. The study also sought to investigate how the selected newspapers framed Boko Haram activities in their coverage. It also assessed the extent to which attacks against *ThisDay* newspaper as well as ownership and management structures influenced their coverage of Boko Haram activities.

The study was premised on the knowledge that the Nigerian media were divided along ethno-religious lines. As with other situations in which the media have been divided based on the North-South divide, the researcher approached this study based on the premise of the North-South divide of the Nigerian society.

Upon analysis of the newspapers and interviews with the editors, the following findings were made:

1. The North-South divide is not evident as with other situations (for instance, the Miss World riots of 2001). This, drawing from the interviews with the editors, is because Boko Haram is a national issue that affects the existence of the Nigerian nation, thus national interest supersedes any ethno-religious divisions. This is also because the media are also

victims of the group's scourge as evidenced by the April 2012 attacks on *ThisDay* newspaper.

2. In their reportage of Boko Haram activities, the following frames were predominant in the selected newspapers: war frame, fear and threats frame, blame and responsibility frame, and punishment frame. The war frame was the dominant frame within which Boko Haram news stories were reported.
3. There was a shift in the frequency of lead stories about Boko Haram activities after the April 2012 bombing of *ThisDay* offices in Abuja and Kaduna, even though the editors argue that their various newspapers "remain unintimidated" and continued to inform the public about Boko Haram activities. There are fewer lead stories about Boko Haram activities.
4. The analysis confirms Boko Haram's claims of bias against the group by the media, thus providing a justification for Boko Haram's hatred for the media and the reasons for the attacks against the media.
5. After the April attacks, apart from a reduction in the frequency of lead stories, there is also a conscious effort by the newspapers to increase their use of direct quotations from Government, Military and Security Agency officials.
6. Ownership and management structures do not influence the reportage of Boko Haram activities, rather, the newspapers are guided by nationalism/national interest, patriotism and their perceptions of the principles of professionalism.

7.3. Conclusion

Researching newspapers' coverage of Boko Haram activities has proved that the Nigerian media are capable of bridging the North-south divide during periods of crisis. This finding is against opinions to the contrary (Ayodele, 1988; Uduak, 2000; Jibo & Okoosi-Simbine, 2003; Ojo, 2003; Omenugha, 2004; Bonde, 2005; Salawu, 2013; Hamid & Baba, 2014). The reason for this is that they perceive the Boko Haram insurgency not only as an attack against the institution of Government, but also as an affront to the Nigerian media, which is supported by the findings of the framing analysis, in which the selected newspapers frame the Boko Haram insurgency predominantly as a war. In addition, the media, Northern or Southern, have been targets of Boko Haram. Therefore, the group is perceived as an enemy of not only the Nigerian society but an enemy of the media as well.

In addition to the newspapers' ability to ignore the North-South divide of the Nigerian society, their willingness to put professionalism and social responsibility to the Nigerian society above ownership and management interference is quite commendable. Therefore, with respect to the Boko Haram insurgency, the absence of identity politics characterized by the North-South divide and ownership and management structures, is a testament to the possibility of establishing a unified society devoid of identity politics.

7.4. Recommendations

The significance of this study was to be a part of the ongoing academic discussions regarding the relationship between the media and non-state armed groups especially in relation to Boko Haram activities. The researcher approached these discussions based on the North-South divide of the Nigerian society. Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations are suggested:

1. The government and security agencies should stop treating journalists and the media as enemies, rather they should be taken as allies with a common enemy- Boko Haram. They should make information about the government's actions against Boko Haram readily available without journalists resorting to anonymous unofficial speculations about the Boko Haram insurgency.
2. Newspapers/media organisations should endeavour to guarantee the safety of their journalists from Boko Haram attacks by taking preventive security measures of security within the offices and when the journalists are out in the field. They could do this by liaising with security agencies to provide security details.
3. The government should ensure that information flows from the appropriate channels to the media regarding issues of the Boko Haram insurgency. This is to avoid conflicting reports from several "unofficial sources" that might put the journalists and citizens at risk.
4. The military and the government should endeavour not to fight the war against Boko Haram on the pages of the newspaper. Not every information is for public consumption. By doing this, they are placing the lives of journalists as well as citizens at risk. The media have been attacked by Boko Haram for reporting unsubstantiated views of the government. Citizens resident in certain towns and villages have been attacked by Boko Haram for feeding information to the government/military.
5. In reporting issues of the Boko Haram insurgency, journalists should strive to practise responsible journalism. They should publish stories that are centred on insecurity cautiously in order not to cause fear and panic among the populace.

7.5. Suggestions for Further Studies

The relationship between non-state armed groups, such as Boko Haram, and the Nigerian media has been the focus of many studies, one of which is this study. However, while this study approached the discussion based on the north-south polarisation of the Nigerian society, it is by no means exhaustive. There are other areas of inquiry for further studies. Some of the suggestions for further studies include:

- A reception analysis investigating audience perception of non-state armed groups based on newspaper coverage of Boko Haram.
- An investigation into the implications of the Boko Haram war against the media for freedom of expression in Nigeria.
- A comparative analysis of newspaper reportage of northern-based armed groups and southern-based armed groups in Nigeria.
- An analysis of media coverage of the activities of other non-state armed groups such as the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB).

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APPENDICES

Interview Guide

1. What factors influence your organisation's representation of Boko Haram activities?
2. In journalism, it is believed that there are always two sides to a story. There have been accusations by the government and Boko Haram that the Nigerian media is biased; based on these accusations how do you achieve fairness, balance and objectivity in the reportage of Boko Haram activities?
3. Thisday newspaper was attacked by Boko Haram in April 2011, as a result of the group's perceived biases by the media against them. In what ways has the attack affected the tone and stance of the newspaper towards Boko Haram and the coverage of the group's activities?
4. Does being a Southern owned newspaper influence how the group is represented?
5. In what ways does the bureaucracy/ management structures of your organisation influence how reporters represent Boko Haram activities?



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ETHICS APPROVAL CERTIFICATE OF PROJECT

Based on approval by the Human Resource Research Ethics Committee (HRREC) on 23/03/2017, the North-West University Institutional Research Ethics Regulatory Committee (NWU-IRERC) hereby approves your project as indicated below. This implies that the NWU-IRERC grants its permission that, provided the special conditions specified below are met and pending any other authorisation that may be necessary, the project may be initiated, using the ethics number below.

Project title: Identity politics in Nigerian newspapers' coverage of Boko Haram.																																	
Project Leader/Supervisor: Prof A Salawu		Student: AO Oyewo																															
Ethics number:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>N</td><td>W</td><td>U</td><td>-</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>3</td><td>8</td><td>3</td><td>-</td><td>1</td><td>7</td><td>-</td><td>A</td><td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Institution</td> <td colspan="5">Project Number</td> <td colspan="2">Year</td> <td colspan="5">Status</td> </tr> </table>			N	W	U	-	0	0	3	8	3	-	1	7	-	A	9	Institution			Project Number					Year		Status				
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Application Type: Doctoral																																	
Commencement date: 2017-03-06					Expiry date: 2020-03-06					Risk: Minimal																							

Special conditions of the approval (if applicable):

- Translation of the informed consent document to the languages applicable to the study participants should be submitted to the HRREC (if applicable).
- Any research at governmental or private institutions, permission must still be obtained from relevant authorities and provided to the HRREC. Ethics approval is required BEFORE approval can be obtained from these authorities.

General conditions:

While this ethics approval is subject to all declarations, undertakings and agreements incorporated and signed in the application form, please note the following:

- The project leader (principle investigator) must report in the prescribed format to the NWU-IRERC via HRREC:
 - annually (or as otherwise requested) on the progress of the project, and upon completion of the project
 - without any delay in case of any adverse event (or any matter that interrupts sound ethical principles) during the course of the project.
 - Annually a number of projects may be randomly selected for an external audit.
- The approval applies strictly to the protocol as stipulated in the application form. Would any changes to the protocol be deemed necessary during the course of the project, the project leader must apply for approval of these changes at the HRREC. Would there be deviated from the project protocol without the necessary approval of such changes, the ethics approval is immediately and automatically forfeited.
- The date of approval indicates the first date that the project may be started. Would the project have to continue after the expiry date, a new application must be made to the NWU-IRERC via HRREC and new approval received before or on the expiry date.
- In the interest of ethical responsibility the NWU-IRERC and HRREC retains the right to:
 - request access to any information or data at any time during the course or after completion of the project;
 - to ask further questions, seek additional information, require further modification or monitor the conduct of your research or the informed consent process.
 - withdraw or postpone approval if:
 - any unethical principles or practices of the project are revealed or suspected,
 - it becomes apparent that any relevant information was withheld from the HRREC or that information has been false or misrepresented,
 - the required annual report and reporting of adverse events was not done timely and accurately,
 - new institutional rules, national legislation or international conventions deem it necessary.
- HRREC can be contacted for further information via Estie.Emtoch@nwu.ac.za or 018 289 2673.

The IRERC would like to remain at your service as scientist and researcher, and wishes you well with your project. Please do not hesitate to contact the IRERC or HRREC for any further enquiries or requests for assistance.

Yours sincerely

Prof LA Du Plessis
Digitally signed by Prof LA Du Plessis
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Prof Linda du Plessis
Chair NWU Institutional Research Ethics Regulatory Committee (IRERC)

It is with total delight and appreciation that we note the increasing capacity of our law enforcement agencies to come to terms with the unusual terrorist challenges posed to the nation by the Boko Haram Islamist insurgency in various parts of northern Nigeria. When the group, which is widely associated with the Al Qaeda worldwide Islamic terrorist network, made a surprising resurgence after it was crushed in 2009 by the regime of the late President Umaru Musa Yar' Adua, everybody in the society was a victim because the group started targeting police and military facilities at will.

They issued threats and lived up to their words. They served notice on their next targets and in spite of efforts by the security agencies they were able to pull off stunning raids that left hundreds of citizens dead or injured and property in ruins. They even sent gunmen to kill Baba Fugu, the father-in-law of Boko Haram's slain leader, Yusuf Mohammed, a day after a conciliatory visit by former President Olusegun Obasanjo at the instance of the Federal Government. An atmosphere of fear reigned supreme, as nobody, not even the President, was seen to be safe from the rampaging group.

The signs that our state agencies of security, particularly the Nigerian Army and the State Security Services (SSS) are gradually getting on top of this ugly situation are many. These include the discovery of their bomb factories and arm dumps in Suleija, Damaturu, Maiduguri and Kano; the capture of Abdul Qaqa, the spokesman of the group as well as the recapture of Kabiru Sokoto, a senior operative responsible for the Christmas Day church bombing in

Vanguard COMMENT

Boko Haram: Kudos to our security forces

Madalla, Niger State. There also have been a series of tollings of their hits on military facilities in Kaduna and Maiduguri. The security agencies are sifting useful information from those captured alive. Slowly but surely, we are getting to understand the enemy, their mode of operation, financial sponsors and moral backers in high and low places as well as their foreign connections.

Boko Haram has put Nigeria at the centre of world attention as a terrorist hotbed. This accounts for the many friendly gestures extended to our country by the USA, UK, the European Union, Israel, South Korea and others. They are ready to join forces with us to eliminate a virus which, if not tacked, will spread to other parts of the world.

The impact of the onslaughts by our security agencies is illustrated by the factionalisation of the group and the fact that a former implacable group committed only to the imposition of their own form of Islamic rule which runs counter to our constitution, now seems ready to embrace

dialogue. If our country is to eventually dialogue with this group we must do so from the position of strength, having overcome the military threat by superior force.

We seem to be well on the way to this juncture, as more and more patriotic Nigerians have started shaking off the climate of fear. They are now speaking out against the group publicly, portraying them for the fact that they are not true Muslims but agents of national disintegration.

We wish to call on the security agencies not to relent in their brave and gallant efforts to assert the power of the nation and eliminate the threat posed by this sect. We have done it several times in the past and we must do again. The effort requires the cooperation and partnership of all Nigeria to help in alerting the security agencies of suspicious happenings within our neighbourhoods. The high amount dedicated to security this year must be justified by ensuring that we acquire the necessary technology and strategies for overcoming this threat. A nation faced with a common enemy must put aside their differences and face the enemy together.

For our security agencies to continue making progress in their constitutional duty to protect all citizens, they need the cooperation of all Nigerians. We must stop seeing the Boko Haram threat through the prism of politics and religion.

Once again, we doff our hats to the men and women under arms empowered by the constitution to preserve the peace, law and order of the nation. They have done us proud so far, but the work ahead is still a lot.

LAOBIS OBILONU
07058796009



“SECURITY AGENTS VERSUS KABIRU SOKOTO” PART 2

OPINION

BY BEN EKORI

New look FRSC's driver's license and number scheme

FOR most Nigerians, the new driver's license and vehicle registration number scheme is nothing but a ploy to skim more money out of the pockets of hapless citizens for government officials to embezzle. Now that the scheme has taken off fully with the new number plates everywhere for us to appreciate, that impression has not waned a bit as people often wonder what the difference really is between the old number plates and the new ones beyond the fact that the latter are a little larger, with the three letters indicating the city or town of registration brought forward before the number and the Nigerian map emblazoned on it. One often hears people complaining that those changes are not worth the trouble and the cost that the Federal Road Safety Commission is imposing on Nigerians. This reasoning is widespread and betrays the typical Nigerian attitude of judging a book by its cover or, more precisely, hasty and over-generalisation. It is really not true that the fallacy of over-generalisation is peculiar to Nigerians; it is just that we as a people have always given in to it and allowed it an unfeeling reign in our national life to our own detriment. A few examples will suffice here. In 2005, the Senate commenced a process to amend the constitution. Then along the line the monster of tenure elongation/third term crept in. By the time the Bill for the amendment came before the National Assembly for debate it had been taken over by anti-third term semitants;

the third term clause contained in the Bill was generalised to represent the entire Bill. It suddenly became the 'third term Bill', not even the lawmakers who should know better were able to rise above this fallacy; and so the Bill was shot down with all the other clauses designed to amend various sections of the constitution years ago. Today, we are back to the same spot where we were five years ago trying to amend sections of the constitution. A similar scenario played itself out during the recent fuel subsidy removal strike. Of all the gains of fuel subsidy removal enumerated by the administration, only one - that it will free up funds for government - stuck indelibly to the minds of most Nigerians. This led to the generalisation that the whole scheme was all about raising more money for government, which will invariably end up in the pockets or personal bank accounts of its top officials. The most prominent gain of the subsidy removal - stimulation of private investments in the refining sector - was conveniently thrown played or forgotten.

This is exactly what is happening to the FRSC new driver's license and numbering scheme, many people only see it from the perspective of generating revenue for the government without seeing the clear gains in terms of helping to collate and preserve data that could help stem the rising insecurity in the land. Even the House

of Representatives that ought to know better buried issued an order that the commission should suspend the project, which its members described as exploitative. They forgot that the constitution does not confer on them with such power as the execution of projects falls within the purview of the executive arm of government. President Goodluck Jonathan highlighted the security advantage inherent in the scheme during its launch on September 2, 2011, when he stated that times like this (referring to the rising scourge of terrorism with vehicles used as means of conveying bombs) call for innovative solutions such as the new license and number plates which have individual faces attached to them. With the new system, the data for driver's license and vehicle registration number are more robust and complete with the picture, fingerprints and address of owners such that the number plate is linked to the person.

This means that you can retain the number 1 plate on your car when you want to sell it if you choose to. But the beauty of this system is that every car in the country can be traced to the owner at anytime as the process of selling one's old car involves going back to the registering authorities to effect change of ownership since the proof of ownership document is now computer generated.

We may not be able to fully appreciate the security benefits of this system yet, but a bill of it would begin to dawn on us when we understand that it has not been possible to locate the real owners of the vehicles that have been used for the recent terrorist activities in the country because the present data of vehicle owners is not adequate. Most of those to whom the vehicles were traced based on available data were reported to have informed security agents that they had sold the cars and did not know the addresses of the people they sold the cars to. This, no doubt, frustrates investigation. We all want the current terrorism scourge behind us as soon as possible. It is a new security challenge that needs new tools and innovative ideas to surmount. If the price to pay to make the work of tracking down the perpetrators of these heinous crimes is to pay a little more to transit to the new driver's license and number plate system, it is definitely not too much. The near-perfect security systems in the developed countries that we always refer to when our security agencies are not able to deliver as efficiently as we expect them to were built with the cooperation of their citizens who subjected themselves to the requirements for basic needs such as driver's license and vehicle registration number that helped to build the data that their security agencies have come to rely upon to track down criminal elements for speedy resolution of criminal cases.

Mr. Ekori, a public affairs analyst, wrote from Lagos.

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Dealing With the Boko Haram Within

On Sunday, January 8, President Goodluck Jonathan declared that sympathisers of Boko Haram have infiltrated all arms of the government and the nation's armed forces. Speaking at an interdenominational service ahead of this year's Armed Forces Remembrance Day in Abuja, the president lamented that the sympathisers of Boko Haram could be found throughout the society. In his words: "Some of them are in the parliament/legislative arm of government, while some of them are even in the judiciary. Some are also in the armed forces, the police and other security agencies. That is how much complex the situation is."

The president further painted a graphic picture of the situation saying: "Some continue to dip their hands and eat with you, and you won't even know the person who will point a gun at you or plant a bomb behind your house."

President Jonathan noted that what the nation was experiencing now "is much worse than during the civil war" because during the war, the enemy was known and his actions could be well predicted.

In view of the weighty nature of the president's open admission of what is clearly a grave national security challenge, it is imperative to ask what the administration is doing regarding these Boko Haram elements in its ranks. It is not just enough for the president to make such statements, he must have an action plan to deal with the situation. As the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Jonathan should show strength and unflinching resolve to nip the situation in the bud before these sponsors of terror could wreak more havoc on

Nigeria.

What we particularly find disturbing is that the president would paint such a picture of helplessness and still pass a vote of confidence in the current security structure. We have said before on this page that the nation's security agencies have not shown sufficient capacity to handle the current crisis. Now that the president has openly admitted that his administration has been infiltrated, we consider it a national shame that not one of these alleged sympathisers of terror in official quarters has been arrested and brought to book.

It is indeed an act of cowardice for the federal government to admit that it has in its ranks terrorists collaborators and sympathisers and yet looks helpless and confused as to how to deal with the rogue elements. If the president no longer trusts his security and

intelligence chiefs, he should not hesitate in relieving them of their duties.

We also believe that the government must now invent a workable strategy to tackle the menace of Boko Haram since it has become very obvious that their activities have nothing to do with religion but simply an insurrection against constituted authority. In view of the fact that several mainstream Islamic sects in the country have denounced Boko Haram and their actions as antithetical to Islam, members of the group have lost every right to be regarded as religious fanatics. Even if it were a religious sect, a murderous gang cannot continue to hold this nation to ransom. Unless this administration can muster the courage to go after these unpatriotic elements in government, there is no end in sight for Boko Haram's nefarious activities.

We have suggested here before that government should adopt a carrot and stick approach in its face-off with the Boko Haram sect and in this regard we advise that the advice of Borno elders should not be discounted. If America has declared its willingness to enter into negotiations with the Taliban in Afghanistan, may be the Nigerian government should not give up completely on the possibility of dialogue with Boko Haram, that is, if they are willing to talk and make known their representatives. The presidential lamentation about Boko Haram members in government is unhelpful. What Nigerians demand is that perpetrators of violence and their sponsors be fished out and be made to face the law.



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The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) has noted with grave concern the issues and controversies generated by the decision of the federal government to remove fuel subsidy which led to the nationwide strike declared by the Nigerian Labour Congress (MLC), Trade Union Congress (TUC) and civil society organisations. The resultant shutting down of economic activities, loss of productive man-hours estimated at several billions of Naira per day, loss of precious lives and destruction of property are not only regrettable but also avoidable.

Considering the security challenges in the last six months and in particular, on Christmas day, we feel compelled, as a responsible professional body, to call for vigilance, caution, reason, understanding and science on the part of all stakeholders as we evolve solutions to these contentious issues in order not to plunge our beloved nation into avoidable chaos and

Fuel Subsidy Strike Avoidable

crisis. We believe that the removal of fuel subsidy and the full deregulation of the downstream sector of the petroleum industry essentially constitute sound strategic economic policies. It is about saving the near future. Well implemented, these policies have the potential to attract massive foreign direct investments which can propel the nation into greater prosperity through their multiplier effects on the economy. From the reactions of Nigerians, particularly those who have been protesting on the streets since January 9, 2012, the introduction of the policy is not so much the problem as the way and manner it was done as well as the citizens' lack of trust in the government. In their view, the removal of subsidy was rather sudden, without adequate consultation and brusquely implemented

ed to the populace.

As a responsive and democratic government, we urge the president to reconsider this decision, temporarily suspend its implementation to demonstrate the genuineness of government's empathy with its people in response to their yearnings. This will make room for meaningful dialogue with organised labour and civil society. It is a mark of courage and statesmanship, not weakness, to defer to the voices of Nigerians, with whom the ultimate power rests.

As noted during our Institute's 41st Annual Accountants' Conference held from October 17-22, 2011 in Abuja, the removal of subsidy should be done not only in phases, but also, the government should endeavour "to make the entire process transparent and

fair, with proper accountability, disclosing the nature and amount of the subsidy, the identity of the individuals and entities benefiting from these subsidies and articulating clearly the development initiatives into which the amount realisable from the removal of subsidy will be ploughed". While we note that the Subsidy Re-Investment (SRI) programme has been developed, finalised and a Committee set up to ensure faithful implementation, the citizens should own the various projects through their active involvement in project execution to ensure value for money.

Considering the emerging severe consequences of government policies, the palliatives announced by the government should be enhanced and cou-

pled with the accelerated turnaround maintenance of existing refineries so that importation of petrol will be a thing of the past.

We also urge the government to strive to implement policies on infrastructural development such that the cost of doing business in Nigeria will reduce considerably. The current parlous state of our infrastructural facilities calls for urgent strategic actions. We need to confront the challenge of power supply, road construction, provision of potable water, health and educational facilities and construction of new refineries with greater zeal. These can be done in partnership with the private sector through Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) arrangements.

We commend the government for taking steps to review the cost of government by cutting down on the basic salaries of political office holders in the executive arm of government.

Prof. Francis Ojide, Lagos

our stand

A Joke Taken Too Far

One whole week has passed since the alleged mastermind of the Christmas Day bombing of St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Madalla, Mallam Kabiru "Sokoto" Umar, allegedly escaped from police custody. At least four days have also passed since the federal government gave inspector-general of police Hafiz Ringim a 24-hour ultimatum to produce the suspect. Up until press time, however, the escapee is yet to be re-arrested; the notorious Zakari Bui, the police commissioner who allowed Umar to escape, is still a free man; and IGP Ringim still sits comfortably as the nation's No. 1 police officer.

No joke could be more hilarious than this in a more serious country. Ringim as well as Bui and his accomplices would, by now, be made to answer for their gross incompetence.

The story peddled by the alleged police to explain the terror suspects' "escape" suggests that Nigerians and their president could be taken for granted. Nobody has believed it, however. But it confirms President Goodluck Jonathan's statement, a fortnight ago, that terrorists had militated his government, including the armed forces.

Currently, the Senate and the national security adviser have launched probes into the alleged bomber's escape. Those who allowed the prime terror suspect to escape must have understood how easy it is to evade justice in the country. In 2005, for instance, a divisional police officer escaped from a police station just after investigations into the murder of six Igbo traders ("Apo 6") began. The police are still looking for him. Almost on a daily basis, armed robbers

"escape" from police cells after their sponsors have "settled" the right people. Cases charged to courts are never-ending; criminals have grown bolder and deadlier.

Both Ringim and Bui are due for retirement in March. Therefore, suspension or dismissal from service would mean little to them. They could have started their terminal leave. Daily, the country is plunged into a deeper cycle of insecurity, while perpetrators of crime are seldom brought to book. For Nigerians, each day another life is lost at the hands of terrorists and criminals and this adds to the level of fear they experience and further diminishes their already precarious quality of lives. It is up to President Jonathan to decide what to do. But every second wasted in the waiting game counts. His government and the entire nation are being taken to the precipice.

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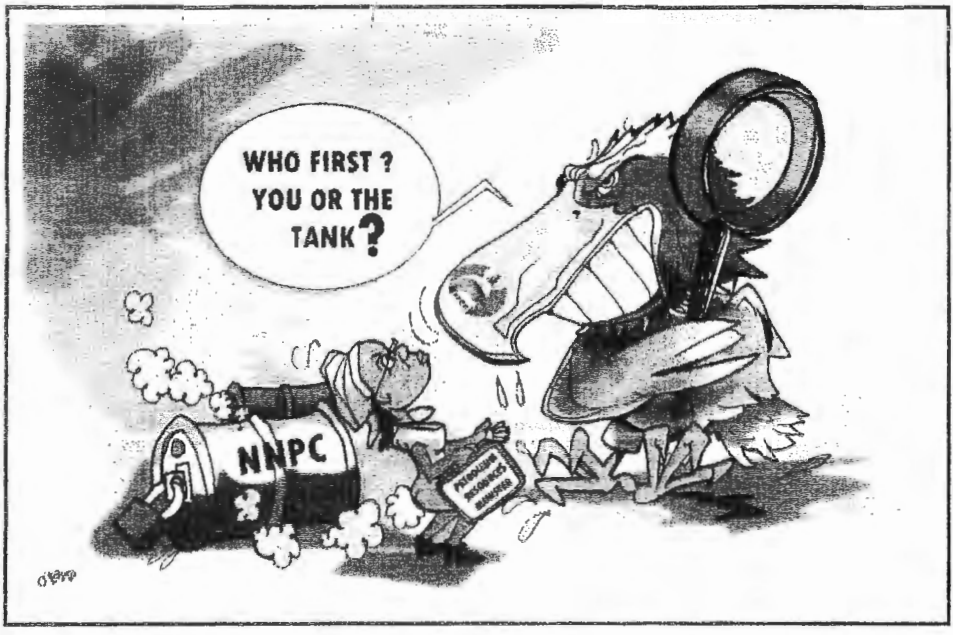
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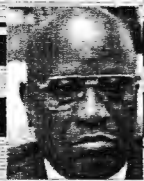
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mission statement

LEADERSHIP is a national paper symbolically embedded in the nation's capital. We shall stand up for good governance. We shall defend the interest of Nigerian people even against their rulers, and we shall raise our pen at all times in defence of what is right. These are the values by which we intend to be assessed. We shall never ever for any reason forget the noble reason of our coming into being: For God and country!



DAILY TRUST



South-South gets 30% of FG capital budget



Page 3

Page 4

FRONT PAGE COMMENT

FOR nearly two years now, the brutal insurgency launched by the Jama'at ul Sunnah Lidda'awati wal Jihad, more popularly known as Boko Haram, has gripped this country and become its single biggest security challenge in a long time. Although it began as a low-level campaign of targeted killings and use of Improvised Explosive Devices

(IEDs) mostly in the Borno state environs, the insurgency later security challenge that has spread to states and Abuja.

The cost so far is nearly incalculable. Hundreds of lives have been lost in the sect's campaign of targeted assassinations, attacks on security agents and their

headquarters and the United Nations building, both in Abuja, as well as wholesale attacks on cities such as Damaturu and Kano.

Continued on page 61

Gunmen sack four Maiduguri schools

From Hamza Idris, Maiduguri

GUNMEN yesterday detonated a powerful explosive at a primary school in Maiduguri, causing a fire that razed classrooms and the headmaster's office.

The dawn attack on Gomari Costain Primary School was the fourth such raid suspected to be launched by Boko Haram over the past week, forcing four primary schools in the city to shut down.

“At least 5,000 school children have been forced to stay at home because of the incidents

The three other primary schools earlier burnt and shut down were those in Kulagumna, Budum and Abbaganaram.

At least 5,000 school children have been forced to stay at home because of the incidents, according to estimates by teachers in the affected schools.

Each of the four attacks was staged at night when the schools were closed, and

Continued on page 5

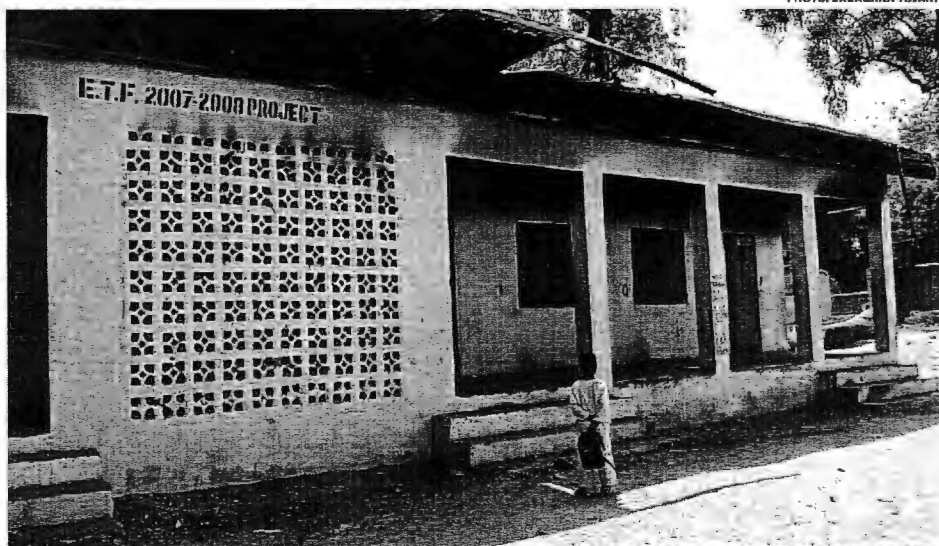


PHOTO: BABAGANA TIJANI

BUDUM primary school is among the four that gunmen set on fire over the past week in Maiduguri, forcing pupils to stay at home.

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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Boko Haram: Time for ceasefire, talks

Cont'd from front page

In the aftermath of the Madadian Christmas Day bombing, tension rose in this country with the spectre of a Muslim-Christian inter-communal misunderstanding that would threaten the foundations of Nigeria. This danger was somewhat diminished by the subsequent attacks on Kano, when it became clear to all that Boko Haram cannot be described as a Northern Muslim community militia targeting Christians but represented a common danger to all Nigerians.

The government's response to this security challenge has been one of a heavy-handed security crackdown. Military-led Joint Task Forces (JTFs) were deployed in Maiduguri and Damaturu. State of emergency was imposed in 17 Local Government Areas spread across five states, while intelligence gathering agents fanned out all over the country in pursuit of sect members.

These efforts have recorded some successes with the reduction of bombings and assassinations in Borno and Yobe States, even though the sect then spread its activities to other places. There were also the recent attacks on schools in Maiduguri that seem to make the Boko Haram sect that has claimed many of the attacks to live up to the name. The arrest of some high profile sect members is however seen as a success of the government's security measures.

Yet, it will be very misleading to think that Boko Haram is about to be defeated. Even if the security agencies are able to reduce its strength, at the very least it could be capable of maintaining a low-level, maybe decentralized insurgency for years to come.

Which brings us to the issue of the urgent need for the government to enter into a dialogue with the sect. Calls for such dialogue have been made by mainly by the Borno Elders and Leaders of Thought, who appear to know the root cause of the problem, apart from being closest to the epicentre of the insurgency.

All sides in this conflict should remember that the world's big and bitter wars ultimately end up at the dialogue table. Both sect and government have lessons to learn from Afghanistan, for example. After more than ten years of shooting and bombing, the Americans and the Taliban are now talking. Before them, the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and the British government signed on to the Good Friday Accords after two decades of a shooting war. While the Nigerian government may not be able to end this insurgency militarily, Boko Haram too has no realistic chance of defeating the Nigerian state in a war of attrition, hence the urgent need for talks.

The Federal Government says it is not averse to talks. President Goodluck Jonathan has said the government will enter into talks if the sect leaders would come forward and present their demands. Although we are aware that some key security officials, including the National Security Adviser and the Chief of Army Staff, have expressed ideas contrary to the views of the President on the issue, we expect the Commander-in-Chief to take the larger national interest and stick to his publicly stated position.

Incidentally, the Boko Haram sect has also dropped broad indications that it is ready for dialogue, though it set some preconditions. It is demanding for the release of its arrested members as a condition for engaging in talks. At this moment, without the sect so much as declaring a ceasefire, it would not be reasonable to expect the government to release captured sect members who are suspected of carrying out acts that led to the deaths of many people. Such matters should only come up at the actual peace talks.

The atmosphere for any talks cannot however be conducive without a ceasefire. Talks cannot be productive while a shooting and bombing war is going on. The starting point, we believe, is for the leadership of the Jama'at alhius Sunnah Lidda'awati wal Jihad to declare an end to its campaign of bombings, shootings, bank robberies and attacks on security agents. It should also articulate its demands and present them to government. In turn, the government should publicly undertake to stop hunting sect members. It is time to end this carnage blamed on the Boko Haram sect. A ceasefire should be declared by both sides, quickly followed by talks to arrive at a lasting solution.

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COLUMN

Nuhu Ribadu, a call to service

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Nuhu Ribadu, pioneer Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) continues to come under fire from his erstwhile Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) party for accepting to serve as the head of a Petroleum Revenue Special Task Force set up by the Minister of Petroleum Resources, Deziyani Aliiso.

Minister after serving in a capacity that followed a Presidential appointment is irksome alright. One had expected really, that President Goodluck Jonathan who must have approved the appointment would dignify Nuhu Ribadu by making the appointment himself. Nuhu Ribadu had contested the Presidency with President Jonathan on the platform of the ACN.

What is Nuhu Ribadu's task? What does the appointment signify, given the posture of the ACN of non-cooperation with the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) government?

Ribadu's task as he reports to Deziyani has been specified. He is heading a team that is to realise the objective of the Government, to "enhance probity and accountability in operations of the Petroleum Industry." Ribadu and the 17-man board has terms which include working with consultants and experts to determine and verify all petroleum upstream and downstream revenues (taxes, royalties, etc.) due and payable to the Federal Government of Nigeria; taking all necessary steps to collect all debts due and owing; to obtain agreements and enforce payment terms by all oil industry operators; designing a cross debt matrix between all agencies and parastatals of the Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources; developing an automated platform to enable effective tracking, monitoring, and online validation of income and debt drivers of all parastatals and Agencies in the Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources.

Clearly Ribadu drew this assignment on merit, given his record as EFCC Chairman. But the ACN would have none of this. Hear the party: "As a political party, we wish to reiterate our position barring any member of our party from taking any appointment whatsoever from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)-led Federal Government. Any member of our party who takes such an appointment does so in his personal capacity."

The party said it believed that the PDP had found "itself incapable of solving the myriad of problems facing it, as it is currently the situation" adding that "the party should be humble and honest enough to accept its failure and cluelessness and openly seek help from the opposition parties." However, rushing to poach credible personalities

from the opposition without first accepting that it is overwhelmed by the problems facing it, smacks

credibility of such personalities. After all, one can never be sure – going by the deceptive nature of the PDP – that the kind of appointment now being offered to Malam Ribadu is being made in good faith or just to get credible people to launder the government's badly damaged image and credibility.

Ribadu's reply is instructive. Said he in a statement aptly titled "When the Nation Calls", "At this point in my life, it is ...easy to answer the honest question if it is inappropriate to invest my

"I am touched by Nuhu Ribadu's answer. A call to duty it is, and if the larger community stands to benefit, so be it."

modest talents and capabilities to my country what I have readily offered many foreign communities, from sister nations in Africa to far flung places like Afghanistan. This, if nothing, makes my decision very personal, freeing all affiliations (social and political) of complicity, but investing the decision also with the unique character that when people reach evaluations in favour of their larger communities, it doesn't necessarily blemish their moral identity. This ...is a national call. In answering it, I go back to the template of my own parents who taught me that honest public service is the greatest asset a person can offer his community. It

his biographical example when my own father returned home as a federal legislator in Lagos to take job as a local council official in Yola. It is all about the community, and it is sometimes bigger than our personal egos."

I am touched by Nuhu Ribadu's answer. A call to duty it is, and if the larger community stands to benefit, so be it. Malam Nuhu Ribadu has another example in distinguished General Muhammadu Buhari, former Head of State, accepting to serve under Abacha, a leader vilified by many as a vicious despot. Buhari served meritoriously as the Chairman of the defunct Petroleum Trust Fund, to this day a development intervention management, unequalled. Projects handled by the PTF

in Nigeria in a manner that a man Sani Abacha never imined. This has added no benefit to Boko Haram's success amongst ordinary folk. That his service boosted the nation's tolerance of the Abacha Regime is never ever in doubt.

ut does Nuhu Ribadu

was hardly any difference in set objectives, enveloped by the desire to capture power and serve the banal interests of sponsors. Nuhu Ribadu had handled Yar'adua's attempt to discredit him expertly, sneaking into the country for events as the passing away of radical lawyer Gani Fawehinmi, and sneaking out again. He became an attractive bride for the Action Congress of Nigeria, which had misread political trends, thinking that a Northern candidate was a sure way to defeat the PDP, whose

candidate, Goodluck Jonathan was adjudged weak and unacceptable to the North. The rest is history. Nuhu Ribadu did not win his home state; more significantly, the Southern States did not vote ACN.

had the chance to speak with Malam Nuhu Ribadu during the 2011 elections for Africa Independent Television, and drew his attention to the fact that there was really no telling one party from another in the election. I asked him if at that point he was prepared to lend support to the PDP. Malam Nuhu Ribadu gave me a scoop. ACN, he told me, was joining

gressive Change; he was lending his support the General Muhammadu Buhari, and was in fact on his way to the consumption in Abuja or Kaduna. AIT led its bulletin with that scoop.

Keen watchers of the Nigerian political terrain were certain that this alignment of forces pelt defeat for the PDP-led Government. That same day, for some inexplicable reason, Chairman of ACN, Chief Bisi Akande, standing on the threshold of victory announced that there was no such deal, and in fact, Malam Nuhu Ribadu was entirely on his own. Bola Tinubu, it seemed, had scuttled the alliance and seeming, if not certain, victory albeit half-baked. So what is their own?

Nuhu Ribadu's answer is apt: a call to service. It is.



Security, Subsidy: Gowon Rallyes Support for Jonathan

Former Head of State, General Yakubu Gowon, has called for the support of all Nigerians for the efforts of President Goodluck Jonathan in resolving the security challenges facing the country, saying there is no hard-and-fast rule on handling such issues.

He also expressed his

From Abimbola Ogbin in Abuja

unshakable belief in the ability of Nigerians to resolve any crises facing them without any external intervener saying: "My trust and belief in this country and the goodness of all Nigerians to be able to resolve their problems themselves, the way we did after fighting each

other for so many years. How did we do it? Was there an equivalent of the reconciliation that we were able to achieve in Nigeria anywhere in the world? It is only in Nigeria that the impossible, in fact, becomes possible."

He threw his weight behind Jonathan in the way he has so far handled issues surrounding

the removal of petrol subsidy and assured Nigerians that having resolved the issue successfully, he should be given the support to resolve all other outstanding challenges.

He spoke to State House correspondents when he visited the president in company with former President Shehu Shagari to commend Jonathan on the way

he had handled the petrol subsidy crisis and to offer their advice as the National Council of State meeting slated for yesterday could not hold due to "the situation in the country".

Members include the president, vice-president, 36 state governors, former heads of state and former chief justices of Nigeria.

He further said that he was particularly elated by the way the president was going, pointing at the honours and scholarships handed out to outstanding corps members as part of the reasons for his elation since he was opposed to those who called for the scrapping of the scheme.

Continued on Pg. 6

THIS DAY

Abuja: Sunny Temp: 13-33°C • ENUGU: Sunny Temp: 19-34°C • KANO: Sunny Temp: 12-33°C • LAGOS: Sunny, humid Temp: 23-32°C • ILM: Sunny, cloudy Temp: 22-32°C

CP Suspended over Escape of Boko Haram Operative

The Nigeria Police Force (NPF) has suspended a Commissioner of Police (CP), Zakari Ibin, following the escape of a high-profile suspect from police custody.

The suspected operative of the Boko Haram sect, Kallid

• JTF: We have arrested 6 top members •

From Yemi Akinsiyi in Abuja and Michael Oluogbo in Maiduguri

Sokoto, had escaped from custody three days after he was arrested at the Borno

Governor's Lodge in Abuja.

• Sokoto is believed to have masterminded multi-coordinated

the Christmas Day bombing of St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Madalla, Niger State, which led to over 40 deaths.

• The force yesterday confirmed that the suspected terrorist was arrested in a successful police operation but was later freed from a team of policemen detailed to carry out further

investigation of the matter.

• The suspect had been handed over to Biu for further investigation and he consequently detailed his men to take him to Abuja for further investigation.

Continued on Pg. 6

FG: Soldiers to Remain in Lagos, Other Cities

• Peace returns after the subsidy storm

From Ibrahim Shuaibi in Kano, Tunde Sanusi in Kaduna, John Shiklari in Victoria, Michael Oluogbo in Maiduguri and Senator Iroegbun in Akoka

Federal Government has declared that soldiers would remain deployed in Lagos and other strategic cities in the aftermath of

the street demonstrations over the removal of fuel subsidy.

Minister of Defence, Dr. Bello Haliru Mohammed, made this disclosure during a media chat on the state of security in the country occasioned by protests, killings and bombings.

Mohammed said as a responsive government, the President Goodluck Jonathan administration would not risk withdrawing soldiers from the streets while some aggrieved unleash violence on Nigerians.

He explained that government acted following security reports that the initial peaceful and lawful demonstration by the organised labour and civil society groups had been hijacked by people with selfish

SCRAMBLE FOR PETROL...



• Motorists queuing for petrol at the NNPC filling station, Challenge Bus Stop, Maitama, Lagos... yesterday

PHOTO: Abimbola Ajib

ISL	
CCRN	+90 2595281 +45%
PZ	+91 40 029 40 +5%
JBERGER	+91 59 003 18 +5%
ANDREW	+91 59 003 18 +5%
STERNA	+91 59 003 18 +5%
Dial 1022	
DANGILOUR	+90 31 015 89 -5%
INNOVATION	+90 30 002 57 +5%
AVONDOWN	+90 26 015 65 +8%
VITAFAMA	+90 27 015 27 +8%
NOVAHEIT	+90 25 011 01 +6%
Nigeria Nig Pte (9419) 50	
LAGOS	
Volume:	244.176 million shares
Value:	NT 243 billion
Index:	7,374
*As at 10:00am 17/01/12	
Details on p. 41	

Continued on Pg. 6

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Adamawa: Citing Security Concern, INEC Shifts Poll

Bayelsa governorship candidates talk tough

From Chuku Okochi in Abuja and Segun James in Yenagoa

not sanctioned by the court. This is coming as the PDP National Working Committee (NWC) held an emergency meeting over the exclusion of the name of its governorship candidate, Hon. Henry Serike Dickson, from the list of candidates for the governorship election.

In a statement signed by the

INEC Chairman, Prof. Attahiru Jega, the electoral body said: "Due to the prevailing situations in Adamawa and Kaduna States, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has, by the powers conferred on it in Section 26 (f) of the Electoral Act 2010, as amended, postponed the scheduled elections in the two states."

The commission said the gubernatorial election in Adamawa State and the bye-election

into Soba Federal Constituency of Kaduna State would now hold on February 4, 2012. It said that the decision to postpone the elections was arrived at after due consultations with relevant stakeholders, adding that the commission does not wish to hold any election under an atmosphere of insecurity, emergency or curfew.

INEC in the statement called on all stakeholders to conduct themselves in a manner that would ensure peaceful and violence-free atmosphere for the elections.

In Bayelsa State, the governorship candidates under the aegis of the Committee of Bayelsa State Governorship Candidates 2012 (CBSGC-2012) in a statement in Yenagoa and signed by its Chairman and ARP candidate, Chief Kenneth Gballekano, Secretary and CPN candidate, Chief Johnson Opatzi, and the Treasurer and PMP candidate, Mr. Patience Vincent, among several others, insisted that: "If for

any reason other than the court decision which we all shall accept as law abiding citizens, we will use any legitimate means including boycotting the elections and taking the matter to the court, to stop INEC from conducting the Bayelsa State gubernatorial election."

The group commended INEC for its strict adherence to its statutory role and the rule of law, adding that the commission had so far maintained impartiality in the governorship process and urged it to continue in the direction it had taken.

"In Nigeria, INEC is the final authority besides the courts in election matters. And having exercised that legitimate authority within the statutory time limit and come to the conclusion that there are 35 governorship candidates and political parties recognised to participate in the February 11, 2012 poll, we urge the commission to remain forthright till the end of the process," it said.

Meanwhile, concerned by the development, the NWC of the PDP yesterday held an emergency

meeting on how to convince INEC to include the name of its governorship candidate among the list of candidates for the governorship election in the state.

According to sources at the meeting, the NWC apart from writing the INEC chairman explaining that it has no power to exclude the name of Dickson from the list of candidates for the election, it also explored moves on how to take the matter to the Supreme Court.

The source further told THISDAY that it was the contention of the party that the action of INEC was extra-judiciary as the commission had no power to interfere in the internal affairs of political parties or reject a candidate that was duly nominated by a political party.

Also, Governor Timipre Sylva of Bayelsa State said yesterday that the distributors against INEC by some chiefs of PDP was aimed at compromising the commission from its adherence to the rule of law on the Bayelsa State governorship race and a threat to Nigeria's democracy.

For the second time in the series, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has shifted the Adamawa State governorship election earlier slated for January 21 to February 4. The commission cited security concern as reason for its action.

Also, barely three weeks to the February 11 governorship election in Bayelsa State, gubernatorial candidates in the election have ganged up against the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) vowing to resist any candidate of the party

The policemen escorting the suspect were however, misled by the suspected members of the sect and the suspect

According to a release signed by the police spokesperson, Oluosola Amore, the activities viewed the development as "a serious negligence" on the part of Bia.

The statement said he was therefore queried and suspended from duty.

"If a criminal case is established against him and his team, they will be prosecuted," it said.

Bia, it would be recalled, was the head of the anti-terrorist squad under the General Sani Abacha regime and was blamed for many bombings, including the ones that led to the deaths of journalist, Bagauda Kalitso, and former Chief Security Officer at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Lagos, Dr. Sola Onatsola.

Onatsola was suspected to be sympathetic to Abacha's opponents and was said to be aiding their escape from the country following persecution by the Abacha government.

Several Boko Haram suspects have escaped from security custody in the last one year, fueling suspicion that it may not be a coincidence.

President Goodluck Jonathan said recently that the security agencies had been infiltrated by Boko Haram sympathisers which were making the war against terrorism very difficult.

On Sunday, the government of Borno State had issued the ultimatum over the arrest of Sokoto at the Borno Governor's Lodge in Abuja last Friday by security operatives.

The arrest of Sokoto had led to insinuations that the state government was harboring a key suspect in the Christmas Day bombings at Madalla, Niger State.

But in a statement issued by the Secretary to the Government of Borno State, Ambassador Babba Ahmed Jidda, the state government said it was a case of security breach which is now being investigated.

On Thursday, January 5, one Ibrahim Umar Abba, an indigene of Borno State and a post-graduate student at the University of Birmingham in the UK, called the

BOKO HARAM Cont'd from P1

permanent secretary of the Borno State Liaison Office in Abuja. He said he was scheduled to catch a British Airways flight back to the UK the following day and would like to spend the night at the Governor's Lodge in Abuja. The permanent secretary, who at the time was in Maiduguri, granted Ibrahim Abba Umar permission to spend the night at the lodge.

When Ibrahim Umar Abba turned up at the lodge, he came with two other persons, one of them an Air Force officer, the other a civilian. Neither of them is known to His Excellency the Governor, or to any other official of the Borno State Government. It turned out that the security agencies were on the trail of one of the three men, later identified as Kabiru Sokoto.

The security agents arrived at the lodge and arrested the three 'guests' as well as all the staff of the Governor's lodge.

"I will like to state emphatically that neither His Excellency Governor Kashim Shettima nor any other top official of the Borno State Government ever knew the said Kabiru Sokoto or the other two men. In fact, their surreptitious gaining of entry into the lodge where His Excellency often stays during his visits to Abuja is a very serious breach of security which has caused great embarrassment to the state government."

In Maiduguri yesterday, the Joint Task Force (JTF) claimed it had arrested six top members of Boko Haram in Borno State.

Speaking to journalists, the Field Operations Officer of the JTF, Col. Victor Ebbaleme, disclosed that the arrest was made following a tip-off from some patriotic members of the public.

He revealed that the JTF swung into action on getting the information from some members of the public and was able to get the men arrested.

Ebbaleme said the information was given to the task force on the lookout of the Boko Haram members and a search on it led to the arrest of the six persons.

He said: "The JTF have been able to arrest six high profile Boko Haram suspects who are currently undergoing investigation in our custody."

"We were able to make this done to bring the security situation in the country under control having the experience of ruling the country in a crisis period, he replied: "I assume you that Mr. President and his team are very much on top of it. Any security issue is not something you can virtually dictate on and say this is the way it is going to finish."

"But with the determination to ensure security for all and for the good of the country, all that we need to do is to give the president the support for all the actions he is taking to put the situation under control. There is need for cooperation among all the people themselves. I am sure no stone would be left unturned in getting to the bottom of the problem and resolving it."

SECURITY, SUBSIDY Cont'd from P1

"We are here to greet the president. We were to have attended the council of state meeting that was cancelled because of the situation in the country. The former heads of state were to have met before now and advise on the most current issues: the subsidy as well as the security problem."

The president has involved the subsidy issue in a correct way in order for things to be able to return to normal and we are grateful and we endorse what he has done and also talk generally on things. For example, you saw how happy the youth corps members were yesterday when the president announced all the good things he had for them," he said.

On what he thinks should be

arrest through the assistance of public spirited individuals who gave us useful information."

Ebbaleme also revealed that the task force uncovered five undetonated Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in Kaleri within Maiduguri metropolis. He said it is believed that it must have been planted by the members of the sect.

He said this made the task force to request residents of the area to immediately vacate the vicinity to "allow for proper detonation of the explosive".

In another development, it was gathered that two soldiers were shot dead by suspected members of the Boko Haram sect yesterday at an outskirts of Goma within the Maiduguri metropolis.

According to eyewitness account, the two soldiers were gunned down while trying to buy roasted grasshoppers by two gunmen who alighted from a bicycle.

It was gathered that the killers came with another man who drove the tricycle to the area and on sighting the soldiers, they immediately alighted and took positions, raining a series of gunshot on the helpless soldiers.

When contacted yesterday evening by journalists, Ebbaleme said he was not yet aware of such incident.

SOLDIERS Cont'd from P1

public and private sector workers as well as artisans to ignore the national leadership of the NLC and continue with the strike and street protests.

Chairman of the state chapter of the NLC, Alhaji Isa Inusa Danguwa, gave the directive at a press conference on Monday.

But going round Kano metropolis yesterday, THISDAY found in defiance of the directive that most private businesses had reopened their outlets with commercial buses and taxis conveying passengers to their various destinations.

All the major markets, such as: Kaitari Kwari, Singar, Mohammed Abubakar Rimi (Sabon Gari Market) were opened for business; even mega petrol stations also opened and were attending to the long queues of motorists. They were selling the product at the new pump price of N97 per litre.

It was further gathered that while some banks in the metropolis were opened for business, the state secretariat, popularly called Audu Bako Secretariat, housing most of the state ministries and the federal secretariat along Airport Road remained under lock and key.

In the spirit of the new reality, the state government relaxed the curfew it had imposed on the state as a result of the tension generated by the strike from 12 midnight to 6am.

In Oyo State, there was a significant improvement in both human and vehicular movements in Ibadan, the state capital, as workers, in both public and private establishments, returned to work following the suspension of the strike.

Subsequently, the state government announced the suspension



Former Head of State, General Yakubu Gowon (left), and former President Shehu Shagari shortly after a meeting with President Goodluck Jonathan at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, yesterday

ROOTING FOR JONATHAN...

of the one-week long curfew imposed on the state in the wake of last week's NLC's anti-petrol subsidy removal protest.

A statement by the Secretary to the State Government, Alhaji Akin Olajide, urged the people of the state to maintain peace and order in their conduct.

The statement also urged the people to guard jealously the peace that had reigned in the state before the crisis.

According to the statement, the joint patrol team of police, military and security services would however continue to maintain peace and order in the state, even after the suspension of the curfew.

Kaduna, capital of Kaduna State, has also regained its bubbling status as normal business and commercial activities had resumed in the city in full swing; civil servants have returned to their duty posts, while commercial banks opened for business.

However, many filling stations in the metropolis with the exception of the NNPC mega stations, which have seen selling fuel to motorists at the new price of N97 per litre, were closed.

This has spurred the state government to lift the curfew it had imposed on the city at the wake of the strike.

Announcing the suspension of the curfew in a statement, the Special Assistant to Governor Patrick Yakoma on Media and Publicity, Mr. Renben Buhari, said government decided to completely lift the curfew as a result of the return of calm and normalcy to Kaduna metropolis and its environs.

Buhari however said the ban on gatherings and public assemblies or processions remained in force to protect the public against molestation, intimidation and to

protect private and public property.

In Lagos, life has started returning to normal following the return of workers to their places of work. Commercial banks opened for business across the state while the city's chaotic traffic gridlock also returned in parts of the state.

Similarly, business and commercial activities had almost returned in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) as workers trooped back to their different places of work.

Commercial activities were also in high gear while motorists purchased petrol from several filling stations opened for business and dispensing the product at the new pump price of N97 per litre.

Meanwhile, the Borno State chapter of the NLC has asked Nigerians not to be disappointed in the leadership of the trade union which called off the week-long strike to protest the removal of petrol subsidy by the Federal Government.

Speaking at a press conference in Maiduguri yesterday, the Borno State chairman of the NLC, Comrade Tili Ali Abamu, said he believed that the labour union had to call-off the strike in the interest of the nation and after being presented with certain information that the generality of Nigerians had no knowledge about.

He further said Nigerians should not entertain the fear that the struggle for the reversal of the pump price to N65 was lost as a result of union only agreed on N97 to enable the door for dialogue not to be shut.

He noted that the government and trade union representatives were still in dialogue to bring the product to an agreeable level.

Court Gives Sanusi Go-ahead to Sell Union Bank

The Court of Appeal in Lagos yesterday gave the Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Mallam Sanusi Laminu Sanusi, the go-ahead to sell Union Bank of Nigeria Plc.

The court, in a judgment delivered by Justice Helen Ogunwumiju, dismissed the appeal filed by some aggrieved

By Davidson Iriehpen

shareholders of the bank praying the court to stop Sanusi from going ahead with his plan to sell the shareholdings.

Justice Ogunwumiju, who by the judgment affirmed the decision of the lower court, noted that the appeal lacked merit and consequently dis-

missed it.

She further held that the appellants ought to have raised questions for determination in their originating summons.

The shareholders, led by the President of Progressive Shareholders Association (PSA), Boniface Okezie, had urged the appellate court to set aside the ruling of Justice

Binta Murtala-Nyako of the Federal High Court in Lagos.

Nyako had, while ruling on the preliminary objections filed by the respondents, struck out the suit on the ground that the plaintiffs failed to raise questions for determination in their originating summons.

The shareholders, which included Rasheed Olatundo,

Basil Ubah and Waheed Sonibare, had in their Notice of Appeal filed by their lawyer, Chucks Nwachuku, urged the court to set aside the ruling of the lower court and exercise its powers under Section 16 of the Court of Appeal Act to hear and determine the applicants/appellants' originating summons.

The appellants in their grounds of appeal argued that their originating summons followed the specified procedure as mandated under Rule 2 (2) of the Companies Proceedings Rules, adding that the procedure did not require the formulation of question for determination.

Continued on Pg. 6

THIS DAY

LEADERS & COMPANY LTD. ISSN 1127-071X

ABUJA: Sunny Temp: 16-33°C • ENUGU: Sunny, cloudy Temp: 22-33°C • ILMU: Sunny Temp: 13-32°C • LAGOS: Cloudy Temp: 22-32°C • PIH: Sunny, cloudy Temp: 22-32°C

IGP Ringim Fights Back, Declares Sokoto Wanted

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Hafiz Ringim has placed a bounty of N50 million on the head of Boko Haram suspect, Kabir Umar, aka Kadir Sokoto, who dramatically escaped from police custody a few days ago.

Announcing the bounty package yesterday, the Police

• N50m bounty placed on Boko Haram suspect

From Kunle Akogun, Yemi Akintoye in Abuja and Christopher Isiguro in Enugu

High Command said Umar is wanted in connection with cases of bombing and terrorism

across the Northern states of the federation, especially the Christmas Day attack on St. Theresa's Catholic Church at Madalla, Niger State, which resulted in the destruction of lives and property.

Ringim had been queried by Minister of Police Affairs Caleb Oluwalade who said several persons faced the sack over the missing suspect.

In a release signed by Force Public Relations Officer

(FPRO), Olusola Amore, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), the police said Umar, who hails from Bitu, Borno State, was last known to be residing at Bulletin Quarters,



Kabir Sokoto

Continued on Pg. 6

Police Ban Public Protests in Lagos

...tear-gas Nwabueze, Braithwaite, others

The Lagos State Police Command has banned public protests in Lagos, declaring that the demonstration planned for

By Gboyega Akinsanmi and Chiemelie Ezeobi

tomorrow by a group of activists would not be allowed to hold.

Yesterday, the police tear-gassed Nigeria's foremost constitutional lawyer, Prof. Ben Nwabueze, ex-Minister of Finance, Dr. Kulu Idika Kulu, and the Nigeria Action Coalition (NAC) chairman, Dr. Tunji Braithwaite, among several others during a peaceful protest against the deployment of soldiers in the state.

The state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Yakubu Alkali, yesterday banned the rally planned by the Save Nigeria Group (SNG) for the Gani Fawehinmi Freedom Park, Ojota.

Continued on Pg. 6

THE TASK IS BEFORE YOU...



L-R: Member, Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) Task Force, Senator Timde Ogbeha; Chairman, PIB Task Force, Senator Udo Udo; Minister of Petroleum Resources, Mrs. Dacian Alston-Modupe; and the Group Managing Director, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Mr. Austen Onihov, at the inauguration of PIB Task Force and Technical Committee in Abuja... yesterday (See story on page 9)

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Bayelsa Poll: INEC Set to List Dickson

The controversy trailing the exclusion of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) gubernatorial candidate, Hon. Henry Dickson, from the February 11 Bayelsa State election may be over soon.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) said that it had been served with the court order compelling it to include the name of Dickson.

Meanwhile, the party's acting National Chairman, Alhaji Abubakar Baraje, yesterday inaugurated a national campaign team headed by Vice-President Namadi Sambo.

According to the Chief Press Secretary to the INEC Chairman, Mr. Kayode Adesina, the commission was served with the court order by Justice Gladys Olotu of the Federal High Court, Abuja, which compelled INEC to include the name of Dickson as the PDP candidate.

The spokesman for the INEC

From Chuks Okocha

In Abuja

chairman said: "As a law-abiding institution and a creation of the law, INEC was served the court order in the afternoon of today (Thursday). The commission will abide the court order before its legal team for advice. I have not said that INEC has accepted the order and neither did I say that the commission has rejected the order. We will simply present it to our legal team for advice."

Justice Olotu of the Federal High Court had on Wednesday, January 18 ordered INEC to "restore the name of the applicant, Henry Serikie Dickson, as the PDP candidate in the 2012 gubernatorial election in Bayelsa State scheduled to hold February 11,

2012, pending the determination of the motion of notice."

The court also granted an accelerated hearing in the motion on notice and adjourned the suit to January 26, 2012.

Also yesterday, activities at INEC were grounded as protesters carried placards chanting songs that INEC should restore the name of Dickson.

As this was going on, Baraje inaugurated a 25-man committee for the election of Dickson as the next governor of Bayelsa State.

Though Sambo, who chairs the committee and Chief Anthony Anenih were present, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aminu Tambuwal, former governor of Bayelsa State, Chief DSP Alarinyeigha, Chief Francis Doukpola and Mike Kalango

were absent.

Former President Olusegun Obasanjo was also absent. Other members of the committee such as Chief Edwin Clark, Chairman of PDP Governors Forum, Hon. Rotimi Amaechi, PDP governors from the South-south, senators and House of Representatives members and ministers from the South-south who are members of the committee were absent.

Also absent was the former Managing Director of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Mr. Timi Alaiye.

But Governor Timipre Sylva described the inauguration of the campaign team for Dickson as an "illegality and evil."

According to Sylva in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Doulo Ola, "The inauguration of a campaign commit-

tee by PDP for Dickson is of no consequence, as it is a mere extension of an illegality and an evil, which cannot stand the test of time."

Baraje charged the PDP campaign committee for Dickson to ensure total victory for the party at the poll, tasking the committee to unite the various interests in the gubernatorial poll.

RINGIM

Abaji, Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja.

Amore also said the suspect, aged 28 years, is fair in complexion and speaks "English, Hausa and Arabic languages fluently."

The police spokesman further said: "The Nigeria Police has therefore placed a monetary reward of N50 million for anyone who has useful information regarding the whereabouts of the suspect or that will lead to his arrest."

He pleaded with such informants to "please report to the nearest Police Station nationwide" any information that could lead to the re-arrest of the suspect.

Piqued by the escape of the suspect, the National Chairman of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), Chief Victor Umeh, has called for the immediate arrest and prosecution of Borno State Governor, Alhaji Kashim Shettima, over the recent apprehension of the suspected member of Boko Haram at the Borno State Governor's Lodge in Abuja.

He also called for the immediate dismissal of the suspended Commissioner of Police, Zakari Bui, from service for complicity in the sudden escape of Umar.

Umeh said in a statement that the Federal Government should do all in its power to ascertain from Shettima what the now escaped Umar was doing at his lodge in Abuja.

"The government should also make the governor to explain why he paid a whopping N100m to the family of a killed Boko Haram member and has turned blind eyes to the thousands of people murdered by the sect."

From every indication, Boko Haram is a creation of the Borno State Government and they are waging a war against Nigeria. In a war situation, there is nothing like immunity. He should be immediately arrested and treated as an enemy of Nigeria.

"Zakari Bui should be dismissed from the NPF along with his errand boys. They should be prosecuted for sabotage. His terrorist activities date back to the time of late Gen. Sani Abacha. I am surprised that he is still in the Force. He is obviously a member of Boko Haram."

"I have met Hafiz Ringim. He is a good man being sabotaged by the Boko Haram."

The appellants maintained that the method of originating summons to be used for commencing applications under the Companies Proceedings Rules is Form 2.

Specifically, the shareholders wanted an injunction restraining Sanusi and his incumbent management of Union Bank from "entering into any arrangement with any person, institution or authority, including themselves and the Federal Government to dispose any share of its bank or to transfer its control, management and assets to any person or authority" pending the determination of an appeal.

Other defendants in the suit included Nigeria Deposit Insurance Commission (NDIC), Federal Attorney General, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the bank's Managing Director, Funke Osobodu, who was sued on behalf of herself and others appointed by Sanusi to the Union Bank board.

According to the statement of

state, as the state is the home state of President Goodluck Jonathan.

He also defended the election of Dickson as the candidate, describing him as "the people's choice."

In his response, Sambo pledged that the committee would ensure that PDP wins at the gubernatorial poll.

5th Columnists in the NPF, Hafiz Ringim deserves pity. Remember that a Boko Haram suspect escaped from Army Cell in Banchi last year. We are really in trouble! Borno State Government should pay N100m per head for all those murdered by Boko Haram.

"This money should be deducted from their monthly Statutory Allocation," Umeh said.

Meanwhile, the Senate yesterday directed its Committee on Police Affairs to investigate Sokoto's escape from police custody.

This followed a report of order issued by the Chairman of the committee, Senator Paulinus Igwe, seeking a parliamentary probe of the suspect's escape in Abaji near Abuja on Sunday.

Mandating the committee to undertake the probe of the incident, Senate President David Mark gave the committee one week to turn in its report.

Commenting on the matter, the Save Nigeria Group (SNG) has urged President Goodluck Jonathan to dismiss Inspector General of Police (IG) Hafiz Ringim with immediate effect over what it described as his (Hafiz's) incompetence that led to Sokoto's escape.

Briefing journalists in Abuja yesterday on the security situation in the country, National Coordinator of SNG, Mr. Benedict Ezeagil, said it was clear that the police could no longer secure the lives and property of Nigerians.

And speaking against the backdrop of recent killing of Southerners in the North by suspected members of Boko Haram, a Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) member, Chief Tony Chukwu, has urged for change of heart by the group and their sponsors.

He said the attacks were mainly directed at creating security problems for the Jonathan administration.

"This depicts complete lack of fear of God. The oil produced by the South-south/South-east has been responsible for all major developments from Lagos to Abuja, Kaduna and Enugu. It is our collective duty to ensure the success of this government. Let peace reign, Nigeria must succeed," he added.

IN our report yesterday on Zakari Bui, we erroneously reported that he was the police officer implicated in the killing of Apo Six. The officer, in fact, was DCP Danjuma. The error is regretted.

-Editor

GETTING READY...



J.R: Lagos State Commissioner for the Environment, Mr. Tunji Belle; Permanent Secretary, Office of the Drainage Services, Mr. Myshym Akhsonov; and the Councilor, Drainage Services, Agege Zone, Mr. Dapo Ajala, during a tour of Lagos State drainage projects to prepare for the 2012 raining season by the councilor in Lagos, yesterday.

POLICE

Cont'd from P1

Spearheaded by the Convener of SNG, Pastor Tunde Bakare, the rally was supposed to be a victory march in commemoration of the success of the five-day peaceful protests held at the Park last week.

THURSDAY gathered that the group had written to the state police command for permission to hold the rally.

Alhaji turned down their request on the ground that the security situation in the state was not conducive for the gathering of a large number of people.

The group had already sought and secured the consent and written approval from the state governor, Mr. Babatunde Fashola, to hold the rally at the park.

Yesterday's protest by eminent Nigerians, which kicked off at the Lagos State House of Assembly Complex at exactly 10:30am, was abruptly halted by the police officers led by a Deputy Commissioner of Police (in-charge of operations), Mr. Tunde Sobulo, opposite Eleganza Industries along Mobilaji Johnson Road, Alimosho, while a detachment of the security operatives was positioned at the 7UP junction, shooting canisters of teargas at the protesters.

During the operation by Sobulo, Chairman of the Committee for Protection of the People's Mandate, Mr. Nelson Ekujuni, was seriously affected and consequently fainted owing to the effect of the teargas.

Fearing further attacks, the protesters, who were led by 83-year-old Nwabueze, unwillingly changed their course and headed towards Lagos State Secretariat, marching peacefully and calling for the immediate withdrawal of troops from Lagos streets and

convocation of sovereign national conference to chart a new course for Nigeria.

At the House of Assembly, the protesters were received by the Deputy Speaker of the House, Hon. Kolawole Taiwo.

Before the protest took off at the Assembly Complex, Sobulo had tried in vain to dissuade the protesters, who were heading to the Giant Fawehinmi Park, Ojota, on the premise that the venue was not safe for them.

Addressing the protesters, Sobulo said the state Police Command could not guarantee their protection and safety if the protest continued.

He said: "The police are in support of the protest but you cannot go there now because it is not safe there. I cannot predict what will happen at Ojota. For now, you have registered your grievances. The government has done what it is believed should be done. Status quo must be adhered to and must be respected."

While Nwabueze led the scene after the protesters were tear-gassed, Braithwaite expressed profound concern about the manner the police officers prevented them from exercising their constitutional rights.

He said the police were trying to criminalise decent citizens of the country.

"Let the world see what is happening to the citizens of this country. Nigeria is a country that has responsible citizens being governed by irresponsible citizens."

"This is just a peaceful protest that is guaranteed under the constitution of the country. The police intended to turn it into a violent crackdown. They will not succeed. We are on the right path.

These are decent citizens who are being criminalised by people whom their way to the office we know much about," he said.

But Braithwaite, chairman of the defunct Nigeria Advanced Party (NAP), said the attack by the police would not intimidate them, adding: "If they thought the shooting of canisters will intimidate us, they are joking. It has hardened our resolve."

Speaking before the protesters started marching, Nwabueze cleared the air that the protest was not an attempt "to bring anarchy into the country, but express the need to bring about a new Nigeria."

He explained that the protesters were canvassing the need "to cleanse this country of all its activities. Every aspect of life and administration of government in Nigeria is rotten. We thought that the strike called by NLC and TUC was the best opportunity for Nigerians to register their grievances."

"It is historic meeting. It is the beginning of events to come. I will like to call it the beginning of a revolution to come. We thought about the strike called by the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC) was the best opportunity for Nigerians to register their grievances."

"When all this started, we thought we were working together. But they compromised 180 million Nigerians. What they did should not be looked at as disappointment but should provoke anger that will galvanise us all to action. We have a challenge before us to cleanse rottenness from the country. All this require the mobilisation of all sectors of the country. I will

write series of papers to catalogue all the illicit acts of the government," he said.

The constitutional lawyer therefore called for a national sovereign conference, stating that if the National Assembly failed to convene it as demanded, "we will carry it out ourselves."

In his address, Kahu said the major objective of the movement was to set up a people-oriented constitution, which he said, was required "to protect the right of over 180 million Nigerians wherever they are across the world."

The ex-minister further explained that "governance is about people. What we are doing is in the interest of everybody and not in the interest of any individual. We are not here to riot or disturb the peace of this country. This is how every nation that is great, achieve what they are enjoying today."

TUC was the best opportunity for Nigerians to register their grievances."

Other Nigerians at the protest included Mr. Abdulrahman Ahmad of Ansar-Ur-Deen Society of Nigeria, Mr. Isiak Akintola of Muslim Rights Concern and Mr. Wale Okunniyi of Pro-National Conference among others.

Pro-democrats groups such as 'Inaugural ERMUG', 'Occupy Nigeria', Joint Action Forum, MKO June 12 Movement, Patriotic Front Movement, United Action for Democracy and Conference of Islamic Organisation were represented at the protest.

When contacted, the Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Samuel Jinadu, a Deputy Superintendent of Police, said the actions of the policemen were appropriate and within the ambit of the law.



Babangida Announces Retirement from Politics

Former military president, General Ibrahim Babangida, has said that he has quit partisan politics, but added that he will, henceforth, provide advisory services to the nation as a statesman. He made the disclosure at the *Daily Trust* 9th Annual Dialogue at the Transcorp Hilton in Abuja yesterday.

Drawing inspiration from former US President Richard Nixon who once told the US media he would no longer be in the public glare for bashing, Babangida said: "I have news for you my media friends: you will never see Ibrahim Babangida again. Today, my dear media friends, although I will continue to be involved by playing advisory role, I have decided never to seek political office in this country again."

He added that though, he had left office more than 20 years ago, "I am still a substance for bashing from the media."

Chastising the Minister of Information, Mr. Labaran Maku, for departing from his known radical bent to public policies while he (Maku) was a student leader, Babangida said Maku had changed and had become the champion of government's deregulation policy.

He said: "I have my brother here, Labaran Maku, who was a young student leader always leading demonstration against Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), always demonstrating against minor increases in fuel prices. Today, he is in government, he is now government spokesman."

"Maku was also one of the restless reporters against IBB transitional programme, I hope Labaran Maku will use his wealth of experience to reverse all the hot phrases and coinages used by protesters, the Lagos youths, critics and civil right activists. Most of the phrases used in the protest were coined by Labaran, as a student."

Continued on Pg. 6

THIS DAY

LEADERS & COMPANY LTD. ISSN 0117-871X

ABUJA: Sunny Temp: 15-33°C YENUGU: Sunny, cloudy Temp: 22-33°C KANO: Sunny Temp: 13-32°C LAGOS: Cloudy Temp: 22-32°C IPH: Sunny, cloudy Temp: 22-32°C

Jonathan Lists Terms for Talks with Boko Haram

160 Chadians arrested over Kano attacks Anyaoku asks Northern leaders to rein in sect members

President Goodluck Jonathan has challenged Boko Haram sect to identify themselves and state clearly their demands before government could engage them in a dialogue.

While acknowledging that military confrontation alone would not end their insurgency, he said there was no doubt that Boko Haram had links with other jihadist groups outside the country.

Jonathan spoke with Reuters

From Ibrahim Shuaibi in Kano and Christopher Isiguzo in Bauchi with agency reports

news agency yesterday as:

"Police announced in Kano that 200 suspects, including some 160 Chadians, had been arrested in connection with last Friday's blasts which killed at least 185 people; and

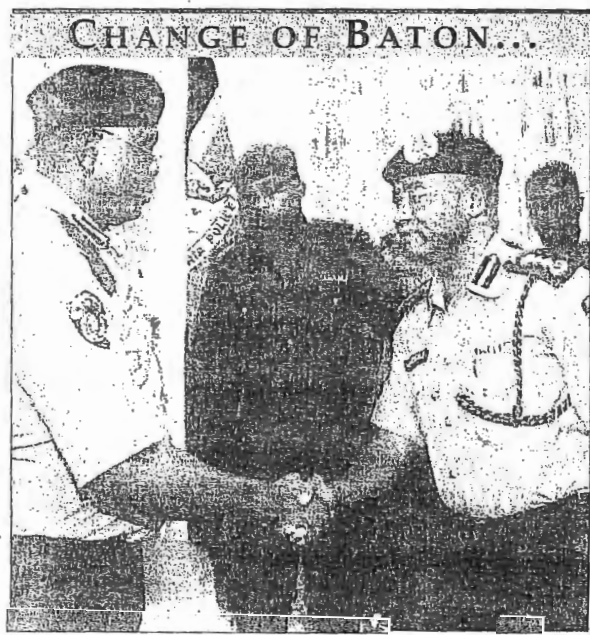
"Former secretary-general of the Commonwealth, Chief Eneke Anyaoku, asked Northern leaders to rein in members of the

Boko Haram sect.

Jonathan said in the interview: "If they clearly identify themselves now and say this is the reason why we are resisting, this is the reason why we are confronting government or this is the reason why we destroyed some innocent people and their properties... then there will be a basis for dialogue."

"We will dialogue, let us know your problems and we will solve your problems but if they don't

Continued on Pg. 6



Former Inspector General of Police (IG) Hafiz Ringim (left) and the new Acting IG, Mohammed Dikko Aminkar, during the handover at the Police Headquarters in Abuja—yesterday

PSC: Abubakar 'Fit and Proper' to be IG

The Police Service Commission (PSC) has defended the choice of Alhaji Mohammed Dikko Abubakar as the Acting Inspector General of Police (IG) following the early retirement of Alhaji Hafiz Ringim.

The commission, which is responsible for discipline, promotions and retirements in the police, said "competence, integrity, professionalism and a command of respect among his colleagues" distinguished Abubakar.

By Nduka Nwosti in Abuja and John Shiklari in Katsina

The search, it said, spanned several months after Ringim started showing signs of laxity in the handling of many security issues under his leadership.

In a letter entitled: "Re-ApPOINTment of Acting Inspector-General of Police/Justice Nikki Tobii Report of 2001 on Jos Crisis", the chairman of the commission, Mr. Parry B.O.

Continued on Pg. 6

Company	Share Price	Change
DIAMOND	40.11 (02.31)	+5%
UNILEVER	41.43 (03.10)	+5%
FIRSTBANK	40.45 (03.01)	+4%
BAIKO	40.13 (02.04)	+5%
DANGSUGAR	40.22 (04.23)	+4%
COLINSURE	40.83 (03.57)	+5%
STANBIC	40.35 (02.05)	+4%
CUTIX	40.07 (01.30)	+4%
PRINCO	40.43 (03.24)	+4%
FIDSON	40.04 (02.04)	+5%
HPPL	Nestle Nig Plc (04.2.00)	

Volume: 1,96,064 million shares
Value: N2,136 million
Date: 27th
*As at yesterday 26/11/12
Details on pg. 59

Equity Invest N1,400
We offer the Complete Package

Why accept less when you get more on our BlackBerry® Complete package?

Plan Name	What it includes	To Recharge	Price
BlackBerry® Complete Plan	BlackBerry® Smartphone (BBM™) BlackBerry® Email Instant Messaging Social Networks BlackBerry® App World™ Small Downloading Wi-Fi enabled kit - all Access	Text "Code" to 777	N1,400
		Text "Code" to 777	N1,400
		Text "Code" to 777	N1,400

States to Get N350bn Reimbursement over Federal Roads

The National Economic Council (NEC) yesterday reached an agreement with the Federal Government to refund about N350 billion owed states for the construction and maintenance of federal roads across the country.

From Ahamefula Ogbu
In Abuja
Council directed the Federal Ministry of Works to speed up the verification and harmonisation of the claims so that the Federal Government could raise the money for the payment.

Briefing journalists after its meeting, Governor Theodore Orji of Abia State, Olusegun Mimiko of Ondo State, Murtala Nyako of Adamawa State, and Shehu Shema of Katsina said the meeting agreed that the verification was to ensure that states were reimbursed their expenditure on

federal roads. "In the effort towards ensuring better maintenance of roads across the country, the Federal Government has mandated the Federal Ministry of Works to speed up work on the verification and harmonisation of claims on states spending on federal roads

to ensure that the states are reimbursed their spending in this regard. "A special provision is being made by the Federal Government to raise the money for the payment which stands at over N350 billion. To ensure proper maintenance of federal roads, states are encouraged to continue with routine maintenance of such roads provided they comply with new procedures for such intervention," Orji who spoke on the issue said.

Their joint bid to ensure food security. In addition, Ondo, Plateau and Adamawa States were asked to submit their agricultural and productivity enhancement plans in order to access funds from Commercial Agricultural Loans Scheme following their presentation.

AN ACADEMIC AFFAIR...



Left: Guest Lecturer, former President Olusegun Obasanjo, University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN) Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Bartho Oshabi and Chairman of the occasion, Chief Eneke Anyanwu, during UNN's 43rd convocation lecture in Nsukka, Enugu State... yesterday

Osayande, a retired Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), said the Federal Government could not act on the recommendations of the Nkiki Tobi Commission because it was a Judicial Commission set up by the Plateau State Government.

Commission set up by Governor Joshua Dariye (then Plateau State Governor) to look into the 7th September, 2001 Jos Crisis. The Commission in its report recommended inter alia: "Religious fanatics should not be posted to head state police commands. The Commission recommends that for his ignoble role during the September 2001 crisis, which resulted in the loss of lives, the former Commissioner of Police, Plateau State Command, Alhaji M.D. Abubakar, be advised to retire from the Nigeria Police Force and in the event of his refusal to do so, he should be dismissed from the service".

"It needs to be pointed out that this was a Judicial Commission constituted by the State Government and apparently the Federal Government did not act on the Commission's recommendations. There is also no record that the report was sent to the Police Service Commission either directly by the State or the Office of the Inspector-General of Police for a follow up action. Neither was he queried by the Inspector General of Police, nor was any disciplinary action taken against him by the Police Service Commission for any act of misconduct over the incident."

"We say this because there is similarity between Zulkari Bui, a commissioner of police who set free a suspected Boko Haram bomber and Abubakar who supervised the killings and wanton destruction of lives and property in the 2001 crisis in Jos. "Zulkari Bui who played ignoble roles including the abuse of human rights during the Abacha era was dismissed from the Nigerian Police, but from nowhere he found himself back into the police and even rose to the rank of a commissioner to facilitate the escape of a high profile suspect like Kabiru Sokoto who was believed to have a hand in the Madalla bombing on Christmas day, killing many people."

Tobi indicted Abubakar, who was commissioner of police (CP) in Plateau State during the 2001 Jos riots, for allegedly taking sides in the sectarian crises which claimed hundreds of lives. Abubakar was branded a religious fanatic by the panel.

"The profile of Abubakar is not befitting of an acting Inspector General of Police. One begins to wonder why a man who was indicted for religious fanaticism by the Nkiki Tobi Commission which equally recommended him for retirement and outright dismissal could be allowed to remain in the police force."

"Similarly, Abubakar may have been appointed to this position to execute the worst Boko Haram activities, especially against Christians," the statement said.

According to Osayande, there was no record indicating that the report was sent to the PSC either directly by the state government or the Office of the IG nor was any disciplinary action taken against him by the commission for any act of misconduct over the incident.

"It appears that some unparitric characters, especially in the Nigerian police are being allowed to have their ways in this country."

"I will not rule out that maybe some politicians get close to some members of Boko Haram, but I will not say that Boko Haram is a political group trying to undo Goodluck Jonathan," he said. "I cannot say it's because a Southerner and a Christian is

held in North Africa; the movement of people in these places has been monitored and noticed. The level of involvement and probably in terms of funding and equipment, I do not know," he said.

Osayande observed that the report, which was 12 years old, has no constitutional effect in terms of its recommendations "and in any case it was only a recommendation".

He further noted that Abubakar had gone further to hold other positions such as CP, Abia State Command (November, 2001), Kwara State Command (April 2002), Adamawa State Command (January 2003), Kano State Command (January 2007), AIG Zone 2, Lagos; Zone 5, Benin; Zone 6, Calabar; and Zone 12, Bauchi and "in all these assignments, he performed creditably well and demonstrated professional competence".

Jonathan said there might be some Northern politicians using Boko Haram militants for intimidation. He reiterated that there were sympathisers within the group at all levels of government.

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More importantly, Osayande concluded, CPs deployed in Plateau State have always suffered accusations of complicity from either the Muslims or Christians, adding that the president may wish to be guided accordingly in the light of the above issues.

Meanwhile, the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in the 19 Northern states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) yesterday expressed disappointment in the appointment of Abubakar.

Security experts have said there is growing evidence that the group, or some members within it, have received training and support from other jihadist groups such as al Qaeda's North African wing.

Jonathan refused to be drawn into specific details on this. "There is a lot of evidence; there are linkages... no doubt

The full text reads: "I write with reference to the above subject matter and wish to state that findings reveal that the Nkiki

Commission set up by Governor Joshua Dariye (then Plateau State Governor) to look into the 7th September, 2001 Jos Crisis. The Commission in its report recommended inter alia: "Religious fanatics should not be posted to head state police commands. The Commission recommends that for his ignoble role during the September 2001 crisis, which resulted in the loss of lives, the former Commissioner of Police, Plateau State Command, Alhaji M.D. Abubakar, be advised to retire from the Nigeria Police Force and in the event of his refusal to do so, he should be dismissed from the service".

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BABANGIDA

Also speaking at the event, Senate President David Mark said the African continent has no alternative to democracy, as it remains the only platform for sustainable development.

Cont'd from P1

Representative of the Minister of Information, Kingsley Isadolor, said the duty of the media is to embrace the profession in such a way that both the led and the leaders become beneficiaries of the development of journalism.

Cont'd from P1

Governor of Edo State, Adams Oshiomhole, on his part, urged the media not to give priority to profit making at the expense of national interest.

Cont'd from P1

The governor further said that the exigency of national security should compel the media to work hard so as not to allow Nigeria go under, adding: "When national interest is at stake, I think there is need to ask questions".

Cont'd from P1

President that the Boko Haram saga comes up." A police source said yesterday that 200 people, mostly Chadian "mercenaries", were in custody after the Kano massacre.

Cont'd from P1

In Enugu, Anyanwu yesterday canvassed the convocation of a Sovereign National Conference to disarm warring issues in the country and asked Northern leaders to put Boko Haram in check.

Cont'd from P1

There was no evidence linking yesterday's blast to Boko Haram. "We just heard an explosion, nobody was confirmed the cause. No loss of life or injuries was recorded. The area is being evacuated," a police spokesman in the city, Magaji Majja, told AFP.

Cont'd from P1

Anyanwu urged leaders in every capacity in the Northern part of the country "to recognise the agony and anger of relatives of victims of the bombings" by Boko Haram in all parts of the country.

Cont'd from P1

He recommended that leaders of Northern Nigeria should convene a meeting with the Federal Government to address the challenge posed by Boko Haram to the security and well-being of Nigeria.

Cont'd from P1

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N38bn: Court Clears Bankole, Nafada

Fran Tobt Soniyi in Abuja and **Davidson Iriekpen** in Lagos

contravene any known law in obtaining the loan.

Shortly after they left office, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)

arrested Bankole and Nafada and charged them with sundry offences bordering on corruption.

They were said to have illegally obtained a loan of N38 billion from United Bank for Africa (UBA) for the payment

of an enhanced package and running cost for members of the House of Representatives.

They pleaded not guilty to the charges and tendered in court the proceedings of the House where the decision to obtain the loan was taken.

Bankole's lawyers led by Chief Adegboyega Awomolo (SAN), in an application brought before the court on behalf of the former Speaker and his deputy for the quashing of the charges against them had argued that an account number

issued by a bank could not be said to be a property to be owned or entrusted as alleged in the charge for which Bankole and Nafada were being tried.

In quashing the charge, Justice Belgore noted that the record increment of members' allowances with the N38

Shell Lifts Force Majeure on 70,000bpd Oil Export... Pg.8

Continued on Pg. 8

A B H
in Abuja of **Abba Jimaji** megastrike while **Abba** Nafada, **Bankole** answer in **Belgore** of N38 billion. **Suleiman Belgore**, earlier refused an **ation** to quash the **ges**, yesterday agreed that **role** and Nafada did not

THIS DAY



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WEATHER • **ABUJA:** Sunny Temp: 13-33°C • **ENUGU:** Sunny Temp: 19-34°C • **KAJI:** Sunny Temp: 12-33°C • **LAGOS:** Sunny, humid Temp: 23-32°C • **PH:** Sunny, cloudy Temp: 22-32°C

Boko Haram: SSS Grills Ex-Governor Shekarau

former Governor of **Sano State**, **Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau** was **esterday** grilled by **ives** of the State **ity Service (SSS)** over **allegation** by **Boko** n that it stepped up a **in Kano** because the **at administration** had

• **Sect kills 2 air force officers, 4 others in Maiduguri**

From Ike Abonyi in Abuja, **Ibrahim Shekarau** in Kano, **Michael Oluogbo** in Maiduguri and **Senator Iroegbun** in Abuja

cancelled the monthly stipend it enjoyed while Shekarau's administration lasted.

Also, the sect in different

attacks in Maiduguri on Monday night killed two personnel of the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) and four other

civilians. THISDAY gathered that the former governor was quizzed for about an hour on issues concerning the sect's activities in the state, especially with regards to the latest

monthly stipends to the group. An SSS source said Shekarau was let off and allowed to go back home, but there is every likelihood that he could be re-invited to give further clarifications in the course of investigations, "if need be".

Continued on Pg. 8

Fuel Scarcity Looms as NUPENG Begins Strike

erians may witness **nother** round of fuel **crisis** as the **National Union of Petroleum and Natural** **orkers (NUPENG)** **yes-** **directed** its **Petrol** **Drivers' section (PTD)** **end** the **loading** of **petrol** **nc** **ink** **firms** **across** the

By Ejirofor Alike

country. The union has also vowed to seal all the offices of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) in the country today until their demands are met.

But Shell's spokesman, Mr. Precious Okolobo, told THISDAY that: "SPDC does not have any grievance with NUPENG members in its employment," and declined further comments.

Another top official of the company, who spoke on condition of anonymity, stated that the company decided to maintain the status quo, because the branch chairman went to court to challenge his expulsion.

"Following legal advice, Shell opted to maintain the status quo pending the resolution of

Continued on Pg. 8

FEELING YOUR PAINS...



Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister for the Economy, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (in); National President, Joint National Association of Persons With Disabilities (JONAPWD), Mr. Daniel Bashir; Secretary-General, JONAPWD, Mr. Davidson Iwankpa Har; and Alectia Consultant, JONAPWD, Mr. Chike Okoyin and other members of the association during a courtesy visit to the minister in Abuja... yesterday

ANIK	90.29	+4.9%
ANIK	90.29	+4.9%
REX	92.29	+4.7%
NDIK	92.29	+4.7%
NDIK	91.29	+4.3%
DN	92.59	+5%
DN	92.59	+5%
AB	93.69	+4.9%
XCN	90.79	+4.5%

Share: 391.92 million shares
Rate: 26.29 billion
Vol: 1337
As of 12:00pm, 11/11/12
Data on pg. 50

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Shell Lifts Force Majeure on 70,000bpd Oil Export

Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) has lifted the force majeure declared on Bonny crude export, after crude oil thieves damaged the 24-inch Nembe Creek Trunkline in Bayelsa State.

Following the production deferments of 70,000 barrels per day caused by the activities of the

By Ejofor Alike
vandalic on the Nembe Creek Trunkline, SPDC declared force majeure on the Bonny Light loading, effective January 5, 2012.

But a Shell Nigeria spokesman, Mr. Tony Okunade, confirmed last night that the force

majeure had been lifted after crude oil production stabilised in the area.

"We can confirm the lifting of force majeure on Bonny loadings with effect from 16.00hours, Monday, January 30, 2012. Crude oil production resumed on January 23," he said.

SPDC has also declared force

majeure on 70,000bpd Bonny Light loading schedule as a result of deferments caused by crude theft activities on Nembe Creek Trunkline.

Before declaring the force majeure, Shell had earlier shut down the line on December 24, 2011, following leaks with the installation of two illegal bunker-

ing points by crude thieves near Tora Manifold in Nembe area.

The Nembe Creek Trunkline serves to evacuate majority of the crude oil produced by SPDC and third party in the Eastern Swamp operations to Bonny Export Terminal.

SPDC had confirmed that the leak on the 90-kilometre line

resulted in the shut-in of some producing flow stations.

A joint investigation conducted by DPR, the Bayelsa State Ministry of Environment, SPDC and the community showed oil thieves had installed valves at two points near the Tora manifold in Nembe.

Shell's Vice-President for Health, Safety and Environment (HSE), as well as Corporate Affairs, for Sub-Saharan Africa, Mr. Tony Attah, affirmed that the leak was caused by crude oil thieves.

"What is really worrying about this leak is that it happened on a facility which was commissioned in October 2009 to replace an old line which was repeatedly targeted by crude oil thieves. Sadly, the crude thieves continue to hinder efforts to maintain the integrity of key national oil and gas assets," he had lamented.

Readership Survey: NPAN to Engage Int'l Audit Firm

The Newspapers Proprietors' Association of Nigeria (NPAN), as part of measures to add value to its offerings, is to commission a reputable international audit firm to conduct an audience and readership survey of newspapers published in the country.

In a statement, the Executive Secretary of NPAN, Feyi Smith, said the President of the association, Mr. Nduka Obaihe, who said this in Lagos yesterday at the continued engagement with sectoral groups in the marketing communication industry tagged: "The 2012 Advert Summit", said the exercise would analyse and collate values delivered by the constituent members of the association.

He spoke against the background of the demand by media buyers for data on segmentation and readership profile of newspapers in the country and the insistence of the print industry that the figures being bandied by agencies as authentic, do not reflect realities in the market place as they affect the industry.

The event, which was hosted by Vanguard Newspapers and drew the top echelon of the advertising and newspaper industry, was held at Protea Hotel, Ikeja, GRA, Lagos and was attended by publishers, managing directors, editors, marketing managers and presidents of the

By Nduhuisi Ugal
sectoral groups in the marketing communication industry.

Obaihe described the print as a media of choice in marketing communication since it is trusted, had historically identified and still identifying with the masses, it is in permanent form, adding that newspapering is not just a business but an article of faith and an unwritten constitution of Nigeria.

Present were the President of the Advertisers Association of Nigeria, Mr. Kola Oyejemi; the Deputy President of the Advertising Agencies of Nigeria, Mrs. Bunmi Oke, who stood in for the President of the Association; immediate past president of AAAN, Mr. Funmi Ombolu; Messrs Laure Fashun and Eki Adzafeh of Media Independent Association of Nigeria (MIPAN).

On the print side were the publisher of the Vanguard Newspaper, Mr. Sam Amuka; publisher of BUSINESSDAY, Mr. Frank Aigbogun; past president of NPAN, Mr. Ray Ekpu; Mr. Aliu Akushile who represented Chairman of Daily Trust and Deputy President of NPAN, Mallam Kabiru Yusuf; Managing Director of African Newspapers (publishers of Tribune), Mr. Sam Adesina; and the Managing Director of

Leadership Newspapers, Mr. Azubike Ishekwe.

Others at the event were Mr. Tony Onyima of The Sun Newspapers; Managing Director of The Nation newspapers, Mr. Victor Ijeh; Managing Director of Peoples Daily, Mr. Aliyu M. Aliyu; publisher of IT and Telecons Digest, Mr. Ipe Abang; and Managing Director of Daily Independent, Mr.

Apkandem James.

The ADVAN President, Mr. Kola Oyejemi, described advertising as a game of value and value perception, adding that if value is not effectively valued, communicated or well defined, it creates a gulf and that this was why data from the media side is very important and very strategic for any successful media campaign.

He tasked the media to come up with necessary data to further enhance business on both sides.

Mrs. Oke, who represented the AAAN President, Mr. Rufai Ladipo, said it was imperative to change the dynamics of how agencies and the print media do business, adding that she was happy to see some positive changes and urged both sides to continue.



Sultan of Sokoto, Sa'ad Abubakar III (left), and the Galadima Garf Sokoto, Alhaji Aliyu Attahiru, at the Northern Emir's and Chiefs emergency meeting at Lugard Hall, Kaduna, yesterday

BANKOLE

billion loan was immoral, wrong and condemnable, especially given the abject poverty in which a great majority of Nigerians have been forced to exist under, but went on to hold that Bankole and Na'ada had committed no crime.

The court further held that the House has the power to use its funds in ways it deemed fit whether as running costs or enhancement of welfare package and that such discretion exercised by the House over its funds did not amount to a crime.

Justice Belgore also maintained that constitutionally, the Speaker had nothing to do with the accounts of the House and rapped the Clerk of the House whose function it was to manage the accounts, for allowing the Speaker to usurp the powers of his office.

The judge further noted that it was the Clerk, not Bankole and Na'ada, who should be charged for securing and disbursing the loans.

Disagreeing with the ruling, the EFCC counsel, Mr. Festus Keyamo said: "Section 70 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) states as follows: 'A member of the Senate or of the House of Representatives shall receive such salary and other allowances as the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission may determine.'"

He added: "Consequently, in our opinion, it is wrong for a judge to allow a public officer to take money from the public till under any guise without reference to the RMAFC. Our respectful view is that 'other allowances' as stated in the Constitution encompasses 'bonning costs' as monies collected by public officers to offset expenses which, from various

Cont'd from Pt 1

difference the judge tried to create is merely spilling of tears.

The court held that Bankole and Na'ada could not be held for criminal breach of trust because constitutionally, their powers do not include control of the Accounts of the House of Representatives, therefore they are not 'entrusted' with those accounts. While the court agreed that Bankole was actually the approving authority regarding expenditure, in conjunction with the Clerk of the House of Representatives, the Court said this was only an illegal usurpation of the powers of the Clerk of the House of Representatives," he said.

the matter before the court," he said.

The action of NUPENG is in protest against the alleged refusal of the management of SPDC to withdraw its support from the suspended chairman of the Shell branch of the union, who is of the Port Harcourt Zone.

NUPENG had at an emergency National Executive Council (NEC) meeting expelled the Shell branch chairman, Mr. Fidelis Okandeji, over what the union called his alleged connivance with the management of the company in the sale of some oil blocks and other anti-union activities.

The association alleged that the management of SPDC had refused to recognise the expulsion and had been aiding the branch chairman to engage in fraudulent deduction of money from the salaries of the workers without obtaining the union's consent.

The Shell management was also accused of intimidating the branch vice-chairman and preventing him from taking over as the chairman, following the expulsion of the chairman.

BOKO HARAM: Cont'd from Pt 1

But the former governor's Senior Special Assistant on Media and Publicity, Sule Yau Sule, in a press statement in Kano yesterday said Shekarau was not arrested.

He said: "It has been observed that the former governor arrived at Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport (MAKIA) on board of IRS in Kano on Tuesday evening dressed in blue brocade and blue cap matching colour was smiling when some loyalists came to the MAKIA to welcome him back to the state.

"Immediately the IRS touched ground at 5.05 pm, the former

governor went straight to the VIP lounge to meet some loyalists that he was expecting his arrival."

Shekarau said: "I am going to my house; you can see me, and when asked whether he was arrested by security operatives, he just smiled and said 'but you can see me in Kano now.'"

According to him, "Well it would be very good for people to crosscheck whatever information they got before flying such a card to member of the public."

Meanwhile, in another orgy of killings in Borno State, the sect killed two NAF officers at separate locations and four others within and outside the state capital, Maiduguri.

THISDAY gathered that one of the NAF officers, who was dressed in multi and was going home after the day's work, was gunned down by the group just a few metres away from the Maiduguri Air Force Base on Monday night.

A witness said the officer, who was killed at the Ngornari area, was shot after the gunmen had earlier killed two of his brothers at a residence in the area.

The witness said in the incident, which occurred at about 6.30pm on Monday, the gunmen had approached the home of the deceased's brothers and made demand on them which they could not fulfil and in anger, shot them to death.

It was also gathered that the deceased were shot in the presence of their mother, and later sped off in the victims' car and other valuables.

As they were about starting the vehicle, they saw the NAF officer who was in multi and thought he was aiming to attack them and opened fire on him.

They were later given a hot chase by the Joint military Task Force (JTF) and had an accident on Damboa Road, a distance of about two kilometres from the scene of the robbery.

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The gunmen, it was also gathered, abandoned the vehicle on the road and fled through the bushes, leaving the pursuing soldiers in a dilemma.

In another incident, THISDAY gathered that the other NAF officer was killed when the group attacked his neighbourhood at Polo area of the town, a distance of about 150 kilometres from

Maiduguri.

The sect members also killed another man during sporadic gunshots at the popular Monday market.

THISDAY further gathered that they heard sporadic gunshots yesterday afternoon and when the atmosphere was calm, they saw a dead body on the street.

The Fields Operations Officer of JTF, Col. Victor Ebbahene, while confirming the killing on phone, said the military was on top of the situation.

The Borno State Commissioner of Police, Simon Midenda, also confirmed on phone the incident, but said he could not give details as he was on his way to Abuja for a meeting with the Acting Inspector General of Police (IG), Mohammed Dikko Abubakar.

Midenda said: "I can confirm the killing of a civilian in Gumboru Ngala Local Government. He was shot dead in front of a mosque last night (Monday)."

In another development, the United Nations Special Mission of Enquiry on the August 26, 2011 bombings of the UN Building in Abuja has arrived Nigeria in their quest to unravel the circumstances leading to the terrorist attack.

Receiving the team, Minister of Federal Capital Territory, Senator Bala Mohammed, assured them of the maximum support of the FCT Administration (FCTA) in order to successfully carry out their task.

He said that FCTA would continue to partner and collaborate with the UN agencies in Abuja for the benefits of ordinary residents of the nation's capital.



'Abuja Airport, Kubwa Road Contracts Inflated by N38bn'

The Federal Government has discovered that the ongoing Abuja Airport and Kubwa Road construction was inflated to the tune of N38 billion.

Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Senator Bala Mohammed, disclosed this yesterday while briefing the Senate Committee

From John Akogun in Abuja

...during a budget defence session.

He said President Goodluck Jonathan had set up a committee to review the projects immediately following the discovery

of some underhand activities in the contract award during the Senate committee's oversight tour last year.

Mohammed said the president was concerned about the cost of project execution in the country, adding that

"Immediately he read of the discoveries of some discrepancies in the award of the Airport/Kubwa road projects by the Senate Committee on FCT, he (the president) ordered a review of the project."

The minister stated that a

committee of experts, which reviewed the projects, examined their designs and measurements and came to the conclusion that the projects had been inflated by over N38 billion.

He stated that though the experts were still working, the

Federal Government would release a white paper on the final outcome.

"We want to show that we are ready to partner the National Assembly. Mr. President has been talking about the cost of projects and immediately he read about the Senate committee's oversight

'Soul Train Creator, Don Cornelius is Dead... Pg. 8

Continued on Pg. 6

THIS DAY

ABUJA: Brightly sunny Temp: 18-34°C • EHURU: Mostly sunny Temp: 22-34°C • ILESU: Brightly Sunny Temp: 14-33°C • LAGOS: Partly sunny Temp: 24-31°C • IFT: Cloudy, sunny Temp: 20-31°C

How Qaqa, Boko Haram Spokesman, Was Arrested

In a joint operation involving the military and officials of the Department of State Security (DSS), the spokesman of Boko Haram, Abu Qaqa, was arrested at about 4 o'clock yesterday morning at Kaduna, Kaduna State.

ACF offers to mediate in FG/sect's talks

From Ike Abonyi in Abuja, Michael Oluwole in Maiduguri and John Slikaun in Kaduna

that Qaqa, who has been evading arrest and has been changing names, finally fell when the

operatives intensified their operation and trailed him from Maiduguri to Kaduna.

At Kaduna, he was traced to his house and was found hiding under his bed. However, the DSS has not issued an official

statement on the arrest because the agency is still carrying out a thorough identity check.

But several military sources told THISDAY last night that Qaqa has been arrested and taken to custody.

But Boko Haram has not debunked the news of the arrest of its spokesman, which has littered every news medium.

A source within the intelligence circle said: "He was arrested in Kaduna around 4

am on Wednesday. He was trailed from Maiduguri to Kaduna.

"He has been evading arrest by changing names. The arrest was effected by a team of DSS and the military. He has been brought to Abuja for questioning," he said.

Continued on Pg. 6

Madalla: Mourners Boo Suleja Monarch at Victims' Burial

Angry about his refusal to sympathise with the Christmas day bomb blast victims at the St. Theresa's Catholic Church, mourners who gathered at the premises of the church, yesterday booed and jeered at the Emir of Suleja, Mallam Awwal Ibrahim.

The monarch had gone to attend the burial service for the victims of the explosion.

The Emir arrived the church premises at 10am when the mass was about to commence, but remained in his car throughout the service period, awaiting the session of inter-

From Aisha Wakaso in Abuja

ment of the 18 bodies, who were buried within the church premises.

After the requiem mass, dignitaries were called upon to give their goodwill messages and when the name of the Emir was mentioned, the church which was filled to capacity with people sitting outside went hostile, shouting, booing and screaming at the top of their voices, rejecting the address or message of the traditional ruler or his representative.

The pleas of the Catholic Bishop of Minna to allow the representative of the Emir to talk was vehemently turned down by the people as the solemn service became rowdy.

Continued on Pg. 6



Shekau, Boko Haram's leader

On January 27 this year, the Guardian of London published an interview it had with Boko Haram spokesman Abu Qaqa. Excerpts:

Qaqa: We'll Bring Nigerian Government to Its Knees

By Monica Mark in Abuja

"We will consider negotiation only when we have brought the government to their knees," the spokesman, Abu Qaqa, said in the group's first major interview with a western newspaper. "Once we see that things are being done according to the dictates of Allah, and our members are released (from prison), we will only put aside our arms - but we will not lay them down. You don't put down your arms in Islam, you only put them aside."

Qaqa, whose name is a pseudonym, said the group's members were spiritual followers of al-Qaida, and claimed they had met senior figures in the network founded by Osama bin Laden during visits to Saudi Arabia.

The Guardian was able to contact Qaqa through an intermediary from the group's home state. The go-between has been in contact with the group since its inception, and met with its founder, Mohammed Yusuf, several times before he was killed in 2009. For most of the interview he used a voice modulator, but local journalists confirmed that his undisguised voice matched recordings of previous interviews.

Continued on Pg. 6

The Cities	
JAPAN	+N084 (N085) +4.9%
HONGKONG	+N082 (N084) +4.9%
INDIA	+N026 (N054) +4.8%
NAHCO	+N033 (N059) +4.5%
ACCESS	+N023 (N053) +4.2%
Trainers	
TRINACTRIP	N068 (N057) -5%
GANO	N081 (N070) -4.9%
VIAFOGAL	N085 (N065) -1.9%
AGLYBERTIS	N087 (N140) -1.7%
UNMEYER	N085 (N170) -1.6%
HPZ	Nestlé Nig Tr (N088)
Lagos	
Volume: 190,961 million shares	
Value: N1,517 billion	
Peak: 1:14	
Vol of 10 shares: 01/011	
Details on pgs. 32	

Relief as ASUU, NUPENG Suspend Strike

Relief came the way of Nigerians as the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), which called its members out on strike, have suspended their industrial

From Bukola Olatunji in Abuja and Linda Eroke in Lagos

actions. ASUU suspended its action after two months, with a call on the Federal Government "to fulfil its obligation in respect of funding and all other matters

contained in its offers".

Prof. Ukaechukwu Awuzie, who briefed journalists in Abuja yesterday, said the Federal Government, at the end of the discussions, communicated its position via a letter dated January 24, which was consid-

ered by all its branches nationwide.

Among the Federal Government's commitment are the following: "Government will immediately stimulate the process with the sum of N100 billion and will build 100 up to a yearly sum of N400 billion in

the next three years. These interventions will be based on identified prioritised needs.

"As soon as the legislative procedures for the Bill on 70 years Retirement Age for Academics at the professorial cadre are concluded, the

Continued on Pg. 6

BOKO HARAM Cont'd from P1

It was also gathered that the arrest of Qaqa was made possible with the use of the Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite facility.

The GPS is a space-based satellite navigation system that provides location and time information in all weather situations on a given subject.

Also, the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) has said it is prepared to broker talks between the Federal Government and the sect to end the crisis.

A top official of the DSS in Maiduguri told journalists on the telephone that "we have finally pinned him (Abu Qaqa) up and he is currently in our custody. You can report that as a confirmed development".

It was also gathered from a security source that Qaqa, who has been speaking on behalf of the group that identified themselves as Jama'atu Ahlul Sunna Lita'awati wal Jama'at (JAS), is an Igala, a tribe in Kogi State.

Qaqa, according to the security source, was responsible for the issuance of all threats that came out from the hidden enclave of the sect, including the ones that preceded the bombings of the Police Force headquarters building, the UN building, both in Abuja, the recent attack on Kano, and last weekend's threat of a possible attack on Sokoto.

The security source also said that Qaqa had not only been the spokesman of the group, but had equally coordinated several

attacks and bombings that took place in most parts of the North.

Meanwhile, ACF, in issuing the pre-conditions, asked the Federal Government to commit itself openly and unambiguously in guaranteeing the security of leaders of Boko Haram if they eventually come out for dialogue. The forum also said it was ready to offer itself to broker peace with the fundamentalist group in order to bring an end to the orgy of bombings, killings and destruction of property being perpetrated by members of the sect.

Responding to questions at a press conference on the state of the nation in Kaduna, Chairman of the forum, Alhaji Aliko Mohammed, said since the Federal Government had indicated its willingness to dialogue with the sect, the government "should give them some guarantee" so that they could come out for dialogue.

Besides, Mohammed said contrary to widely held views, the Boko Haram is more of the enemy of Northern Muslims than the rest of Nigerians, maintaining that over 90 per cent of the about 2,000 people said to have been killed by the sect were Muslims.

He also defended the recent ultimatum by the sect asking Southerners to leave the North, arguing that it was the South-south that first issued a three-day ultimatum to Northerners to leave the South.

"Actually we have said that there is no religion that opposes

the killing of people neither Muslims nor Christians and I really think that the question of Boko Haram giving notices to Southerners to leave the North, I think the media was not fair.

"If (the ultimatum) was started from the South-south who said Northerners should leave and gave them three days' notice and looking at the number of the people in the South-south and in the North, then some others can say why not the other way round as well.

"We are not speaking for Boko Haram actually, we were the first to go to Maiduguri; we went to Maiduguri and saw the Governor of Borno State and appealed to Boko Haram to come out and dialogue with the government. Now that the Federal Government has said that they want to dialogue, they should give them (Boko Haram) some guarantee so that they could come out and dialogue.

"Actually, we have offered ourselves, if need be we may be able to broker that sort of peace; we want people to know that there are more Northern Muslims killed out of this 2,000 that we are talking about. More than 90 per

cent of them are Northerners that have been killed by Boko Haram. So Boko Haram is really more of our enemies than the rest of Nigeria," the ACF chairman said.

Also contributing, the Vice-Chairman of the Forum, Senator Joseph Waku, declared that Southerners who were leaving the North were free to do so. "If Nigerians, living anywhere in this country and on their own, they decided that they are going to leave without the clear instructions in the North, we have not given any instruction to anybody, group or organisation to ask any Nigerian that is leaving within the confines of the North to leave and go anywhere. So it is part of the problem that the Federal Government is also facing.

"So we are calling on the Federal Government to come out with a clear statement jailing those people who are accusing Northerners that they are driving out other Nigerians from a part of their country to another part. But if Southerners decided to leave on their own constitutional freedom of movement, freedom of association, they are free," Waku said.

Earlier in the state of the nation statement read by Mohammed,

he, however, regretted the recent mayhem unleashed on Kano by Boko Haram, noting that the attacks by the sect had reached a level that threatened national security with a potential anarchy.

The statement reads in part: "Having reviewed the horrendous attacks on many parts of the North which, at the last count, have claimed the lives of over 2,000 people, Muslims, Christians, Northerners, Southerners - everyone - and an unquantifiable amount of property across the North, the meeting came to the conclusion that unless addressed quickly and decisively, the threat posed by these attacks have reached such a level that threatens national peace and order and has the potential to cause the collapse of peace, security and public order in the North in particular and the nation in general.

"In this regard, the ACF makes the following recommendations: Government should continue to persevere, uncover the true identity of these people, to be able to determine their demands or grievances and address those that may be genuine and in accordance with our laws.

"ACF calls upon all people of good conscience who may have access to members of Boko Haram to urge them to take advantage of secure channels of communication to be provided by the Federal Government towards achieving a resolution of the current bloody impasse.

"Similarly, ACF calls upon and enjoins the leaders and members of Boko Haram to realise that no religious doctrine permits the killing of innocent lives. It is important to point out to them that they are inflicting terror, death and destruction upon people not in any way responsible for whatever injustice they believe have been done to them.

"While it is true that the actions of Boko Haram are condemnable, it is also necessary to call upon the Federal Government and all our political leaders as well as all those in positions of authority, to recall the UN Resolution 1963 of 2010 which urges governments around the world to address underlying causes of civil unrest and social conflicts rather than resort to hard military power which rarely solve them."

NIGERIA GOVERNMENT Cont'd from P1

Qaqa said Sheikh and others had travelled to Saudi Arabia for training and funding. "Al-Qaida are our elder brothers. During the Lesser Hajj (last August), our leader travelled to Saudi Arabia and met al-Qaida there. We enjoy financial and technical support from them. Anything we want from them we ask them."

He said recruits from neighbouring Chad, Cameroon and Niger had joined the group. A recent UN report said weapons from Libya may have been smuggled to Boko Haram and al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb via Chad, Niger and Nigeria.

In recent weeks, Christian institutions have increasingly come under fire. A Christmas Day bomb attack on a packed church just outside the capital claimed almost 40 lives.

But Qaqa said the rights of the country's 70 million Christians, who represent half of Nigeria's population, "would be protected" under the group's envisioned Islamic state. "Even the prophet Mohammed lived with non-Muslims and he gave them their dues." But he said everyone must abide by sharia law: "There are no exceptions. Even if you are a Muslim and you don't abide by sharia, we will kill you. Even if you are my own father, we will kill you."

Speaking fluent but non-native Hausa, the Igboan franciscan across the Sahelian belt on the cusp of the Sahara desert, he said: "It's the secular state that is responsible for the woes we are seeing today. People should understand that we are not saying we have to rule Nigeria, but we have been motivated by the stark injustice in the land. People underestimate us but we have our sights set on bringing sharia (to) the whole world, not just Nigeria."

Sharia law is already in place across 12 states in the Muslim-majority north. Few believe the group's radical ideology has eroded in Nigeria's

mainly Christian south, which is also home to millions of Muslims and has so far been out of the group's reach.

Raising his voice for the only time during the interview, Qaqa denied reports that some governors in northern Nigeria paid the group monthly allowances in exchange for immunity from attacks. "May God punish anyone that said so," he said, before adding that the group has popular support in the north.

"Poor people are fired of the injustice, people are crying for saviours and they know the messiahs are Boko Haram."

"People were singing songs in (northern cities) Kano and Kaduna saying: 'We want Boko Haram'," Qaqa said, describing how the group can blend into the communities in which it operates. "If the masses don't like us they would have exposed us by now. When Islam comes everyone would be happy," he said.

President shall assent to it, not later than the end of February 2012.

The state universities shall continue to enjoy special and other statutory interventions. Government will improve, significantly, the budgetary allocation to education from 2013 to 2020.

"Government accepts in principle the payment of the Earned Academic Allowances (EAA). However, there is need to work out practical and sustainable ways to do this. Consequently, the mandate of the IMC (Implementation Monitoring Committee) has been expanded to include proposing practical and sustainable ways of paying the EEA and the report is expected in 60 days. Government shall direct the universities to support internal staff development of all those not covered under the TET Fund intervention on capacity building.

"Government undertakes to reinstate governing councils of various universities on or before February 12, 2012, but may

make changes in external membership where it doesn't necessary. The tenure of the councils thus reinstated shall end in February 2013."

In suspending its action, which was declared three days ago, NUPENG directed its Petrol Tanker Drivers' (PTD) section to immediately commence the lifting of petroleum products across the country.

The industrial action was in protest against alleged illegal deductions of N4,896,000 from the salaries of workers by the management of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC).

The union alleged that the deduction was made without the consent of workers. The union also accused the management of Shell of conniving with the suspended branch executive particularly the Chairman, Mr. Fidelis Okandeji, whom NUPENG accused of anti-union activities including the recent sale of some oil blocks without the knowledge of the national head office.

Prior to the intervention by the

did not visit to commiserate with the church or families of victims of the blast even when people from all across the country visited the families of the victims.

After he was booed, he still remained outside the church premises until he was advised by the Associate Priest, Rev. Father Christopher Barde, after consultations with the leadership of the church to leave. The emir then

Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), there was heavy traffic along Minna/CMS roads in Lagos as the aggrieved officials of NUPENG yesterday morning picketed the offices of SPDC including its corporate head office in Lagos.

However, THSDAY gathered that the NNPC had summoned the management of Shell and the union leaders to a meeting in Abuja in a bid to resolve the crisis.

Confirming the suspension of the strike, Chairman of the Western zone of NUPENG, Comrade Tokunbo Kororo, said: "We have suspended all actions. That is, the picketing of SPDC and loading of products. This is due to the intervention of NNPC.

As weakp, members of PTD have started loading products. We did not want to punish Nigerians for the sins of Shell, but wanted government or appropriate authorities to call Shell to order. Now that NNPC has waded into the issue, we have no other choice that to suspend the actions until further notice."

REST IN PEACE...



Bodies of the bomb blast victims being taken away for a mass burial at the St. Theresa's Catholic Church premises in Madalla, Niger State... yesterday PHOTO: Sunday Express

MADALLA Cont'd from P1

drove out of the church at 12.38pm.

The Niger State government had on December 31, 2011 queried the emir for his refusal to show empathy to the victims of the Christmas day bomb blast.

Earlier in his homily, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Abuja, Dr. John Onaiyekan, described the sponsors of the attack on the church as murderers.

"Those who kill others either in the name of their faith or ideology are murderers and though it is natural to feel the pains but at a time like this, we have to go beyond the natural instinct of pains, horror and revenge like our Lord Jesus Christ, never try to get revenge, leave that to the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Jesus prayed to God to forgive his murderers when he was on the cross and we have no option but to take things the Christian way and pray for the conversion and repentance of those who carried out the dastardly act and also pray for those saddled with the responsibility of security in the country to be able to proffer lasting solution to the problem of insecurity in the country," Onaiyekan said.

Also speaking during his goodwill message, the representative of Pope Benedict IV, Archbishop Augustine Kasujja, papa nonno to Nigeria prayed for the peace of the country just as he enjoined men of goodwill to rise up against evil.

Senate President David Marko, who spoke, through Senator Ayogu Eze, said that the National Assembly would work with the Federal Government to fight acts of terrorism in the country.

Those who attended the burial included the representative of President Goodluck Jonathan, Pastor Abba Mafela, who is the Deputy Chaplain of the Villa Chapel, Senator Dahiru Awaisu and Professor Jerry Gana.

The mass was also attended by three Catholic Archbishops, eight Bishops and several clergy men.

ABUJA AIRPORT Cont'd from P1

tour of state projects, he ordered a probe into the projects. Right now, the committee has saved the government of N3.38 billion," Mohammed said.

In his words, Chairman of the committee, Senator Smart Adeyemi, said that it was commendable to see the executive acting fast on the discovery of the committee.

He also declared that the committee would soon summon all major contractors operating in

the country to answer charges on the usage of assets internally including gratuity and leave.

"We want you to remember us because we are being cheated as a nation in the deployment of our natural resources. We will soon summon all contractors in Abuja to show receipts of payments for Interite and gravel which they take on site, because already they have included these things in the Bill of Quantity," he said.

S'West, Edo Move to Rebuild Lagos-Ibadan E'Way

Governors of the six west states and their Edo State counterpart have initiated moves to take over the reconstruction of the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway as well as the Shagamu-Benin Highway.

They are also planning to pull resources together to construct a rail line traversing

Shagamu-Benin expressway too

From Sheriff Balogun
in Abeokuta

Lagos through Asaba, Delta State.

These were the highlights of the communiqué they issued at the end of their meeting at the Government House, Abeokuta,

Ogun State yesterday. Ekiti State Governor, Dr. Kayode Fayemi, who read the communiqué, said: "The governors resolved to explore the possibility of taking over the reconstruction and management of the roads. They also considered and agreed on the need to create

alternative road and rail lines from Lagos to Asaba."

The governors said their decision to venture into the reconstruction bid for the affected roads was informed by the national impact of the gridlock witnessed daily on the roads.

Apart from the gridlock, they also said there were the issues of job losses, insecurity, and economic wastage, "which

have considerable impact on the socio-economic development of the nation in general and the affected states in particular."

Fayemi said the governors also demanded an immediate review of the existing concession agreement on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, adding that the position of the road as the artery linking Lagos to other

parts of the country made the review imperative.

Speaking on the state of security in the country, Fayemi said the meeting resolved that states must play a more active role in protecting lives and property of the citizenry beyond mere provision of equipment and logistics to security agencies.

Continued on Pg. 3

THIS DAY



WILKINGS & COMPANY LTD. ISSN: 1117-671X

ABUJA: Brightly sunny Temp: 18-34°C • ENUGU: Mostly sunny Temp: 22-34°C • KANO: Sunny Temp: 14-33°C • LAGOS: Partly sunny Temp: 24-31°C • PH: Cloudy, sunny Temp: 20-31°C

Boko Haram: Arrest of Our Member, Obstacle to Dialogue

Twenty-four hours after the arrest of a suspected spokesman of Boko Haram, Abu Qaqa, the sect last night said the arrest of its member is an obstacle to the Federal Government's planned dialogue with it.

The sect also said the person arrested and in the custody of the security organisation is

Says the sect man picked is not Qaqa

From Ike Abonyi in Abuja and Michael Olugbode in Maiduguri

not its spokesman, Qaqa, but head of its enlightenment department, Abu Daudan.

But an official of the Department of State Security

(DSS) told THISDAY last night that the planned dialogue, claimed by the sect was an issue that is discussed at the realm of politics, not security.

"We have information that a group in Maiduguri is saying that the dialogue proposed is

foreclosed because of the arrest of some of their key figures.

"Our reaction to it is that we are merely security outfit. The issue of dialogue is political and not for us. Our duty is to ensure security and not to discuss or talk politics," he said.

In a teleconferencing with journalists in Maiduguri, a Boko Haram official said: "We want to react on what security agents said in respect of the arrest of one of our own. The person that was arrested was Abu Dardaa and not Abu-Qaqa. "I am Abu Qaqa, the spokesman of the Jama'atu Ahlis Sunnati Lidda'awati Wal

Jihad. Abu Dardaa is the head of the Laguna (dept) of public enlightenment and not the spokesman.

"The arrest of Abu Dardaa is an outright deception and betrayal by the Nigerian government and security agents. They proclaimed dialogue and

Continued on Pg. 8

Adamawa Voters Decide on Nyako, Marwa, Others Tomorrow

15,000 additional policemen deployed

Fifteen thousand additional policemen drawn from Gombe, Taraba, Enugu and Benue State Police Commands have been deployed in Adamawa State as the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) conducts governorship election in the state tomorrow.

Frontline candidates in the election are the immediate past governor of the state contesting on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Admiral Murtala Nyako (td), and Brig-Gen Mohammed Buba Marwa (td) of the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC).

Also, a group of election monitors under the aegis of Project Swift Count involving

From Matthew Onah in Yola

the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) and Transition Monitoring Group (TMG) has asked the Federal Government to deploy adequate security agents to ensure that there is no breakdown of law and order during the election.

Consequently, security has been beefed up throughout the state as policemen have begun a stop-and-search operation at various points across major streets of the Yola metropolis.

The Adamawa State Police Command's spokeswoman, Aline Daniels, an assistant superintendent of police, said the inter-agency committee on election security had mapped

Continued on Pg. 8

THE SOUTH-WEST SPIRIT...



L-R: Ekiti State Governor Kayode Fayemi; his Ogun, Lagos and Osun counterparts - Ibikunle Amosun; Babatunde Fashola; and Rauf Aregbesola - addressing the press after the meeting of South-west governors at Government House, Abeokuta, Ogun State, yesterday

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Customs: N37bn Lost to Import Waivers in 2011

It emerged yesterday that the Federal Government lost about N37.2 billion to the import waivers regime granted to importers of raw materials last year.

Deputy Comptroller General of Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) in charge of Human Resources, Mr. Garuba Makarfi, who disclosed this during a budget defence session he had with the Senate Committee on Finance however said that no import waiver is granted this year.

He said: "We lost 7 per cent of our collection to export expansion grant which is non-negotiable, this amounted to about N37.2 billion. The grant was given to export-oriented companies and local manufacturers, to export raw materials, but instead, these local manufacturers sell their certificates to dealers who then use it to import cars into the country."

Lamenting the loss, Chairman of the committee, Senator Bassey Otu, said that the Senate would ensure that waivers are only given to critical areas of the economy.

"We frown seriously about waivers," Otu said, adding, "We want waivers to go to where it is extremely necessary."

Briefing the committee further on the 2012 budget proposal of the NCS, Makarfi said the Service would spend a total of N1.24 billion on fuel to power its various generator plants as well as to cater for refreshment and officials' welfare packages.

He stated that the total 2012 bud-

From Kunle Akogun in Abuja

get of the service is N76.06 billion, N20.2 billion of which is for overhead and recurrent expenditure.

The Service is also spending N180 million on water supply, out of N12.8 billion capital budget and N500 million for security votes targeted at stopping smuggling across the nation's borders.

The Customs chief said the service raked in over N900 billion as revenue for the Federal Government in 2011.

The committee however commended the NCS for what it called "the huge leap in revenue" accruable to the Federal Government and assured it that the lawmakers would put in place every legal framework to boost the work of the

Service.

"We commend you for all the good works and to assure you that the Senate will address all structural and legal frameworks to make the Service more efficient. We support the reorganisation of the Service. We want you to tackle irregular e-payment and reduce leakages in your payment systems," Otu assured.

ECONOMY ON THEIR MINDS...



L-R: Group Managing Director, Access Bank, Alhaji Alimokande; Coordinating Minister for the Economy and Minister of Finance, Dr. Angel Okonjo-Iweala; and Managing Director, Bank of Industry, Mr. Evelyn Otu, at the signing of the update and funds disbursement and management agreement by banks and Finance Ministry with Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria at the Federal Ministry of Finance, Abuja - yesterday

are doing the opposite. His arrest has proven to us that they were waiting for us to avail ourselves so that they can arrest us.

"We purposely sent Abu Darda to Kaduna to discuss with some key government functionaries on the issue of dialogue. Indeed, he had started talking to them but unknown to him, they directed some security agents to trail him behind and arrested him.

out adequate measures to ensure peaceful conduct of the election.

She said with the reinforcement from other states, the command was now ready for the election.

Appealing to politicians to reign in their supporters to remain peaceful throughout the election period, she warned that any breach of the law by any person, would not be condoned by the police.

The election monitors said their request for more security personnel to be deployed in the state was because of the concerns of recent reports of violence in some parts of the state.

Project Swift Count's 1st Co-chair, Mr. Dafe Akpedeye, said there is the need to ensure that the election is conducted under a free atmosphere devoid of fear and intimidation.

The Project is made up of representatives of the Federation of Muslim Women's Association (FOMWAN), Justice, Development, Peace/Caritas (JDC), NBA and TMG.

In a press conference yesterday in Abuja, Akpedeye said security during the election is very critical especially during voting, vote counting and transmission of results.

"Voters must be able to vote without fear and election observers must be able to observe without intimidation. Candidates must also be able to campaign without the fear that they or their supporters will be killed or

This is exactly what happened. He volunteered to present himself for the dialogue but was betrayed."

He warned that "Everybody knows our capability and tactics of operation. It is evidently clear that none of our members could be caught on a platter of gold and without confrontation.

"We initially thought that the much talked about dialogue was

ADAMAWA *Cont'd from P1*

harmful," he said.

In the same vein, Akpedeye said the security agents to be deployed must not allow themselves to be used by any individual or group to intimidate and harass voters at polling booths.

He also appealed to INEC to ensure that the election is conducted in a transparent manner in order to ensure the integrity of the electoral process.

He charged INEC to adhere strictly to guidelines in order to avoid creating credibility and legitimacy problem.

Meanwhile, the All Nigeria

Peoples Party (ANPP) governorship candidate in tomorrow's election, Alhaji Usman Biele, has withdrawn from the race, barely 48 hours to the voting date.

He blamed his withdrawal on what he called prohibitive cost of elections in the country.

Biele, who addressed a press conference yesterday, said he regretted to say that he could not continue with his ambition because he lacked the resources to do things he had considered necessary that could have given the party some mileage in the election.

and leaders in Ibadan in the shortest possible time."

On resource allocation, he said: "...the governors further deplored the imbalance in resource allocation to states that make up the old Western Region given their contributions to the National Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The governors reaffirmed their determination to ensure that justice is done on the revenue allocation framework in the country."

The governors, who also deliberated on devolution of power, said in the communiqué that: "The Federal Government is holding on to too many responsibilities and power that are supposed to be within the purview of the federating states. The governors considered it expedient to review the existing arrangement and devolve

more power to the states."

Fayemi added that there would be a full-fledged secretariat to be established for effective coordination of the goal to fully integrate the states in the old Western Region, stating that "the meeting of the governors should hold more frequently at least, a bi-monthly schedule was agreed on."

In attendance were: host Governor Ibikunle Amosun, his Lagos State counterpart, Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola (SAN); Fayemi; Governor of Ogun State, Rauf Aregbesola; and Governor of Oyo State, Senator Abiola Ajimobi.

Others were the Deputy Governor of Ondo State, Alhaji Alii Olanusi, and his Edo State counterpart, Mr. Pius Oduba.

Two-Minute Briefing

NEWS

Boko Haram: Six Killed In Factional Clash

In what was described as a clash of two Boko Haram factions, seven men were left in the pool of their blood after their throats were slit in Shehu North, Maiduguri.

Page 10



EDITORIAL

FRSC and the 'Shame Register'

One of the major causes of Road Traffic Crashes (RTC), identified by the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) remains the behaviour of many road users.

Page 15



POLITICS

Bayelsa Guber Poll: Who Succeeds Sylva?

Next week Saturday, INEC will conduct governorship election in Bayelsa State. In preparation towards the election, the commission recently released 36 names of candidates cleared to contest the election.

Page 16



WEEKENDFILE

When Peace is Like a River

Be it war, terrorism, natural disaster or any other form of violent crises world over, women are often the major victims. If they are not killed, a son, daughter, husband or benefactor is killed.

Page 19



BUSINESS

FG Moves to Harness Inland Waterways' Potentials

The Federal Government has reiterated its commitment to develop and harness the huge potentials in Nigeria's territorial waters through the establishment of an inland water transport system.

Page 25



CITYSTRINGS

Remembering Ikeja Bomb Blast Victims, 10 Years After

Ten years ago, Lagosians witnessed a horrendous incident on a black Sunday when the bombs in the armoury of the Ikeja Military Cantonment detonated causing a stampede that killed over 1000 people...

Page 40



INTERNATIONAL

ICC Rejects Gaddafi Daughter's Appeal on Jailed Brother

The International Criminal Court said yesterday that it had rejected a request by former Libyan leader Gaddafi's daughter to submit information in the case of her brother, who is awaiting trial in Libya on rape and murder charges.

Page 40



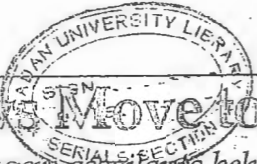
SPORTS

Aboutrika, Two Others Quit Football

Al-Ahly and Egypt players Mohamed Aboutrika and Emad Moteab have announced they will not play professional football again after witnessing Wednesday's violence in Port Said.

Page 56





S' South Govs Move to Contain MEND Threat

Concerned by the threat by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) to resume hostilities in their respective states, governors of the South-south region have gone back to the drawing board for a strategic review on how to contain the possibility of attacks by the militia group.

JTF fingers assailants behind Agip attack

By Collins Edomazu

The states are Edo, Rivers, Bayelsa, Cross River, Akwa Ibom and Delta.

This is just as the Joint military Task Force (JTF) yesterday down played the threat by

MEND and named Friday Buruu, Lord Onipa, Robinson Agagudu, Eyalu Karo, Stanley Udoorie, Para Ekiyes and Rasmus Omukoro as the masterminds behind the attack on the Agip facility at the weekend. THISDAY checks revealed

that even though the attack on the Agip facility may have been spearheaded by a ragtag group of militants sympathetic to the purported leader of MEND, Henry Okah, who is standing trial in South Africa, some states held security meetings yesterday

and have ordered the reinforcement of troops and beefing up of security presence at oil installations across the region.

One of the south-south governors who spoke on the issue last night stated that the six states were responding to the threat separately in their respective states, adding, however, that a collective response would

be spearheaded by the South-south Governors' Forum soon.

He said: "In my state, I presided over a security council meeting to address the threat by MEND this morning (yesterday). I believe that other state governors in the region will address the issue independently too."

Continued on Pg. 10

THIS DAY

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ASABA: Sunny Temp: 14-33°C • ENUGU: Sunny, cloudy Temp: 22-33°C • IKANO: Sunny Temp: 13-32°C • LAEBS: Cloudy Temp: 23-31°C • PII: Sunny, cloudy Temp: 22-32°C

Qaqa: Boko Haram is Under Duress, Divided

Arrested Boko Haram spokesman, Abu Qaqa, has told his interrogators that prior to his capture last week, the sect was already under severe duress and divided along ethnic lines. Information reaching THISDAY from sources with access

Sect attacks Kano police stations

From Ike Abonyi in Abuja and Ibrahim Shuaibi in Kano

to the interrogation room of the State Security Service (SSS) revealed that the sect is

embroiled and distracted by a war of ethnic cleansing among its rank and file.

"Before I was arrested, some of us had already shown signs of fatigue," Qaqa confessed to

his interrogators while also acknowledging divisions within the group along ethnic lines, as non-Kanuri Boko Haram members have been fretting over the arrest of only their members.

The source also said that Qaqa has opened up on the larger-than-life image of their leader, Imam Abubakar Shekau, whom he accused of ordering the execution of any member who tries to back out from their cause.

"Most of us were tired of fighting, but we couldn't come out to say so because of fear of reprisal from Leader Imam Shekau on dissenting members. Several of our members who denounced the violent struggle were slaughtered in front of their wives and

Continued on Pg. 10

M.T Mbu, Nationalist, Diplomat Dies at 82

President condoles with family

The family of Chief Matthew Taiwo Mbu, yesterday, announced the passing away of the elder statesman, diplomat and First Republic politician, at the age of 82. THISDAY gathered that he died at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, London, yesterday morning, after a prolonged illness.



Late Mbu

By Jaiyeola Andrews, Anayo Okolie and Taiwo Akintunde

some time now, and he had been transferred from one hospital to another in recent times," the source said, adding that the family was already making efforts to meet to decide on the burial plans. The source promised that the family would

Continued on Pg. 10

ALL FOR LITERATURE...



L-R: Chaiwano, Advisory Board for Science, Emeritus Prof. Umaru Shehu; Managing Director, Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG), Mr. Babu Omatowa; Nobel Laureate for Literature, Professor Wole Soyinka; and winner, the Nigeria Prize for Literature, Mr. Adeleke Adeyemi, at the public presentation of Mai Nsaram at the Nigeria Institute of International Affairs (NIIA), Lagos... yesterday

Advertisement for 'The King of Freeze' featuring a large image of a freezer and promotional text.

PDP Holds National Convention March 24

During any last minute changes, the national convention of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) will hold on Saturday, March 24. The tenure of the present National Working Committee (NWC) of the party ends on March 8. But it may be extended to enable it to organise the convention.

This is coming as the Governor of Bauchi State, Mallam Isa Yuguda, has been relying the support of governors from the North for the national chairmanship aspiration of the acting National Secretary of PDP, Dr. Musa Babayo.

Also yesterday, the National Publicity Secretary of the party, Prof. Ahmed Alkali, said he had consulted sufficiently with all

From Chuka Okocha
in Abuja

stakeholders to enable him declare his aspiration for the office of the national chairman of the party.

The NWC had last week postponed the meetings of the party's Board of Trustees (BoT) and the National Executive Committee (NEC) to enable it offer solidarity for the Adamawa State governorship election which took place on February 4.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) had fixed the gubernatorial elections in Adamawa, Bayelsa, Sokoto and Cross River States for February 4, 11, 18 and 25 respectively, which clashed

with the previously planned national convention scheduled for February 25.

But it was gathered that after an emergency NWC meeting last week, the national convention of the party was rescheduled for March 24.

The party is said to have informed INEC of the new changes and the reason for the changes.

According to NWC members who spoke to THISDAY, the ward congresses and the local government congresses are expected to kick off in the first week of March, to be followed by the states and zonal congresses in the states and six geo-political zones of the federation.

THISDAY learnt that the NWC after meeting with

President Goodluck Jonathan and other stakeholders of the party, agreed that it would be better to hold the national convention as quickly as possible since the tenure of the present NEC is expected to elapse on March 8 this year.

According to informed sources, the decision to hold the national convention on March 24 was informed by the lack of provision in the PDP constitution for a caretaker committee.

As such, in order to avoid a constitutional crisis, INEC accepted an early national convention.

INEC's decision to accept a month's extension for the Abubakar Kawu Barajed-NWC was deemed a compromise following explanations by

the party to the commission that its earlier dates for ward, local government (and states congresses) clashed with INEC dates for governorship elections in Adamawa, Bayelsa, Sokoto and Cross River States.

As campaigns for the office of the national chairmanship of the party gather momentum, Yuguda has stepped up campaigns for the acting national secretary to become the new national chairman of the party.

THISDAY was reliably informed that Yuguda has been projecting and selling Babayo to all the Northern governors elected on the party's ticket.

The Bauchi State governor, it was gathered, has been to Taraba, Gombe, Adamawa, Kano, Kaduna and Jigawa States campaigning for Babayo. Also, the party's National Publicity Secretary, Alkali, has said that he has concluded his consultations on his ambition to contest for the office of the national chairman.

According to Alkali, "We have concluded our consultations and my state government and members of the National Assembly from my state are solidly behind me to contest for the office of the national chairman of PDP."

QAQA *Cont'd from P1*
children. Seven were killed recently," he was quoted to have said.

The source added that Qaqa had disclosed that the non-Kanuri members of Boko Haram - comprising Hausa-Fulani and others - are worried over the spate of arrests of members from their ethnic stock.

Their worry is heightened by the fact that most of the key members that have been arrested are non-Kanuris, which has raised fears that there is sectional betrayal of members.

Qaqa, 42, had variously used the names: Mohammed Shuaibu, Mohammed Bello, Abu Tariya, and Abdullrahman Abdullahi.

When he was set free after the Bauchi jail break by some Boko Haram members, he adopted the name Abu Darda before adopting another alias, Abu Qaqa, until his arrest last week.

He holds an Ordinary National Diploma (OND) in Social Work and Administration from Ramat Polytechnic, Maiduguri, Borno State.

The former spokesman, who was earlier reported as being an Igala man from Kogi State, has confessed to coming from Ebija South village in Ajaokuta Local Government Area of Kogi State, largely dominated by the Ebin tribe.

The SSS had in an early morning operation last Wednesday raided the Mubi Close residence of the spokesman along Maiduguri Road in Kaduna and whisked him away with two other persons in the house, before

M.T. MBU *Cont'd from P1*
Temple and University College in London from 1953 to 1959 (while he was an ambassador) where he bagged an LLB and LLM in Law and was called to the Middle Temple Bar.

As an acolyte of late Nnamdi Azikiwe, Mbu was a visible politician during the First Republic and remain active during the Second Republic.

He was later appointed chairman of the Eastern Nigeria Public Service and also served in the Constituent Assembly of 1977/78, which produced the 1979 Constitution.

Ambassador Mbu in recent years joined and supported the clamour for a president from the South-south region of the country. As chairman of the South-South Peoples Assembly, Mbu campaigned for the zone to produce the president of the country.

He had declared at the time that, "He (Goodluck Jonathan) should go ahead and declare to contest for the presidency. We have already told him during the last summit of the South-south that he has our support. Let him declare. There is no problem."

Rescuing to Mbu's demise, President Jonathan, in a statement from his Special Adviser, Media and Publicity, Dr. Reuben Abasi, said the statesman lived an exemplary life of service for Nigeria.

"He was an icon of the legal

flying them to Abuja for grilling. He was found hiding under his bed.

Qaqa was trailed to his hideout by a combined team of SSS men and soldiers using GPRS to track his telephone calls.

Meanwhile, in Kano, the state police command announced that suspected members of Boko Haram yesterday attacked and bombed the Sherada Police Station with explosives.

According to the police, the Boko Haram attacked the police station from all directions and opened fire to scare away people from the area.

The police station which is situated on the outskirts of Kano, was said to be attacked by the suspected Boko Haram members in the late evening when residents were rushing home to beat the curfew in the state.

State Police Commissioner, Mr. Ibrahim Idris, confirmed the attack, stating that security agents were drafted to the area to contain the situation.

A riot policeman also sustained injury on his leg during the attack and was taken to hospital for treatment, according to a police source.

It was also gathered that the policemen in the state were proactive and effectively warded off the attack.

Another attack was said to have also taken place at the Mariri Police Station which is situated along Kano/Jigawa Road in Kano.

But details of the attack were scanty as at press time.

profession and the diplomatic corps, who served Nigeria selflessly as a minister; as Nigeria's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and in several other capacities," the president said.

"Many," according to President Jonathan, "will remember the late Dr. Matthew Mbu for his many diplomatic assignments, but I remember him for his calm disposition and mature contributions which helped Nigeria through difficult times between 1967 and 1970 and then again in 1993 during the June 12 political crisis when he served Nigeria as Minister for Foreign Affairs."

President Jonathan further observed that the late Dr. Mbu's contributions to Nigeria were enormous and that he was indeed one of Africa's major voices in the global arena in the last five decades.

"His death," the president added, "is a great loss not only to the Mbu family of Boki in Cross River State, his immediate family and his extended political family, but an irreplaceable loss to Nigeria as a nation."

"On behalf of myself, my family and the government and people of Nigeria, I extend my condolences to the Mbu family in general and to his wife, Katherine and the children. May his soul rest in peace."

COURTESY CALL



L-R: Mr. Didier Bailler of Agricultural and Rural Development Division of Agency Francaise and Development; Osun State Deputy Governor, Mrs. Tit Lanya Tunori; Governor Rauf Aregbesola; and Senior Infrastructure Economist, Transport Sector of the World Bank, Mr. Nicolas Felber-Thibierge, during a visit of the World Bank (French Development Partner of Rural Mobility and Access Project (RAMAP 2) Pre-appraising Mission to the governor, in Osogbo, Osun State... yesterday

MEND

Cont'd from P1

The governor, who did not want to be named, added that "if and when the former chairman of the South-south Governors' Forum, Senator Liyel Imoke, returns as the forum's chairman, the region will address the MEND threat and the security challenges it portends jointly."

He, however, said that there was a link to what the south-south governors could do independently or collectively, since the security apparatus is controlled by the federal government.

"You know the police, JTF, and security agencies are all controlled by the federal government, so we hope that it is responsible to the threat by MEND and does not allow it to get out of control like the Boko Haram situation in the north," he stated.

Revealing an alternative response strategy, another south-south governor stated that in addition to beefing up security in his state, a reach out strategy to militants would also be explored.

"For some of us governors that have links to the militants, we will try to reach out to them to forestall any rise in attacks," he said.

He expressed concern about the security implications of renewed hostilities on the economic and social lives of the people of the region in particular and Nigerians at large.

He revealed that the operation of the JTF in the region was undergoing review which had vested the command structure of the task force in the brigade commands in the respective states.

As the governors move to safeguard their states against the possibility of heightened insecurity, the JTF has identified seven men who were responsible for the bombing of the oil pipeline belonging to Italian oil giant Agip.

Spokesman for the task force, Lt. Col. Timothy Antigha, made the disclosure in a statement made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Port Harcourt yesterday.

He listed the suspects as Burun, Onipa, Agagudu, Karo, Udiorio, Ekiyesi and Omokoro.

The JTF spokesman advised the suspects to give themselves up before the long arm of the law catches up with them.

"These suspects are advised to turn themselves in for interaction with authorities of the Joint Task Force in Yenagoa, latest 12 noon of February 8, 2012," he said.

Antigha stated that the suspects and their collaborators aimed to deceive Niger Delians by appropriating the identity of the erstwhile leadership of MEND to advance their selfish interests.

"For the avoidance of doubt, people who were in the leadership of MEND are now responsible members of the society, having accepted the amnesty programme," he said.

The JTF spokesman urged the public to remain calm and discountenance the lies issued by the suspects as the reason for sabotaging the pipeline.

He said the relevant stages of the amnesty, which was granted to authentic former militants and all the attendant benefits, was still on course.

groups in the Niger Delta is being used to acquire more sophisticated weapons to ensure that our next assault on the Nigerian oil industry expels western oil companies once and for all, adding that "there is nothing the Nigerian military can do to halt it".

Referring to the Agip attack, the militia group put a spin on the amount of oil affected by destruction of the company's trunk line, stating that the oil multinational cleverly indicated that 4,000 barrels of its production was affected by the attack.

"The reality is that close to 200,000 barrels per day of Nigerian crude exports is affected by our attack as that trunk line served to transport crude oil for other oil companies as well. This translates to a daily loss of at least 20 million US dollars," it said.

However, Agip sources confirmed to THISDAY that 5,000 to 8,000 barrels of crude oil may have been lost to the attack and not the 200,000 barrels per day as alleged by MEND.

Following a year of silence, MEND struck on Saturday night in Brass Local Government Area, Bayelsa State, leading to the destruction of a crude oil trunk line belonging to Italy's oil multinational subsidiary in Nigeria, Agip.

In his reaction, the Special Adviser to the President on Niger Delta and Chairman of the Presidential Amnesty Programme, Hon. Kingsley Kuku, has reiterated the confidence of the Presidential Amnesty Office in the ability of the nation's security agencies and armed forces to tackle security challenges in the Niger Delta as well as other parts of the country.

He condemned in the

strongest terms possible the unconscionable attacks on the facilities of Agip by those who claim to be operatives of MEND and urged the nation's security agencies and armed forces to deploy proactive and creative ways of nipping insecurity in the region in the bud.

brief the media later as more details arise.

When THISDAY visited his Apapa, Lagos residence yesterday, there was a calm atmosphere as family members were reserved about their emotions over the demise of the statesman.

Born November 20, 1929, Ambassador Mbu had a prolonged career service serving the Nigerian nation, debuting as a parliamentarian from 1952 to 1955.

He was later appointed as a minister in the prime minister's office by Tafawa Balewa the prime minister from 1960. Mbu was famous for holding the distinction of being the youngest ambassador to represent Nigeria, having been appointed ambassador to the United Kingdom in the Court of St. James at age 24, in 1955.

He served the country in various capacities including Federal Minister of Labour, High Commissioner to the UK, 1955 to 1959; and Representative of Nigeria, Washington DC, in 1966.

He had also served as a foreign minister on several occasions, and was also Minister of Defence in charge of Navy.

He received his early education at Okweli Primary School in Cross River State between 1937 and 1940, Kwakwagong Seminary School between 1941 and 1943 before he proceeded to Middle

Ribadu, Oronsaye, Agbakoba, Others on Task Force for Oil Debt, Sales

After his dalliance with the opposition Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) and contesting on the party's platform as its presidential candidate, former Economic and Financial Crimes Commission chairman, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, has accepted to serve the Peoples Democratic Party

From Akamefula Ogbu in Abuja
 (PDP)-led government as the chairman of a Petroleum Revenue Special Task Force. The 21-man task force was yesterday instituted by the Federal Government and has

former Head of Service, Mr. Steve Oronsaye, as its deputy chairman. Unveiling the body, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum Resources, Goni M. Sheikh, said in a press statement that the action was taken

to address the demands of Nigerians regarding probity in the petroleum sector. Sheikh said: "Consistent with the policies and promises of President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan's administration, and underpinned by the yearnings

of the people of Nigeria for transparency in the petroleum industry, the Minister of Petroleum Resources has set up a Petroleum Revenue Special Task Force designed to enhance probity and accountability in the operations of the petroleum

industry." The body, which has 13 other prominent Nigerians and representatives of six federal agencies, include former President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Mr. Olisa Agbakoba, Pastor Inuah Ighodalo and Professor Olusegun Okunnu.

Prof Aluko, Business Mogul, Dantata, Pass On... Pg.10

Continued on Pg. 10

THIS DAY

ABUJA: Sunny Temp: 13-33°C • ENUGU: Sunny Temp: 19-34°C • KANO: Sunny Temp: 12-33°C • LAGOS: Sunny, humid Temp: 23-32°C • PORT HARCOUR: Sunny, cloudy Temp: 23-32°C

Boko Haram Names Negotiators, As Multiple Blasts Rock Kaduna

• Troops uncover sect's armoury • Biu faces dismissal over Sokoto's escape

From John Shikimi in Kaduna, Ibrahim Shmaibu in Kano, Yemi Akinsuyi and Senator Iroegbu in Abuja

Boko Haram has indicated its preparedness to enter into dialogue with the Federal Government, and has named Sheik Abubakar Gero, Dr. Shestima Ali Mungano and former governor of Yobe State Senator Bukar Ibrahim, to hold negotiations on its behalf. The sect's offer to dialogue comes after multiple bomb blasts rocked the Kaduna metropolis yesterday. The explosions occurred at the I Mechanised Division of the Nigerian Army (Dalet Barrack), the Nigeria Air Force Base located along Mando Road, and the flyover

at Kawo, in Kaduna. The three places are almost within the same vicinity. The sect, which had sent a recorded video tape to the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), released the names of four negotiators, however, the fourth name listed was not audible. The authenticity of the video, THISDAY learnt, is being investigated by security agents. The tape which NTA claimed was delivered by an unidentified source featured two persons, fully masked in black. Only the voice of one was audible. "We hereby confirm and accept the reported initiative of the president for dialogue as a welcome development," the speaker who did not identify himself said.

RUNNING FOR THEIR LIVES...



Kaduna residents fleeing from the explosion site at Kawo flyover in Kaduna... yesterday

Company	Change
GTBank	+0.05 (0.175) +4.9%
UBA	+0.15 (0.20) +8.5%
First Bank	+0.00 (0.50) +0.0%
Access Bank	+0.15 (0.20) +8.5%
Union Bank	+0.02 (0.52) +4.5%
Bank Leasys	+0.07 (0.13) +9.5%
Securitel	+0.24 (0.70) +8.5%
ETIMANACT	+8.10 (0.57) +8.5%
ASL	+0.15 (0.30) +8.5%
HOYNYLOUR	+0.15 (0.30) +8.5%
IFPE	+0.15 (0.30) +8.5%

Market 15:15 (0.15) +0.5%

Market 15:15 (0.15) +0.5%

Market 15:15 (0.15) +0.5%

Bayelsa: Supreme Court Dashes Sylva's Hope

The Supreme Court yesterday dashed the hopes of former Bayelsa State governor, Timpre Sylva, of participating in this Saturday's governorship election in the state. Whatever remnants of his

ambition to re-contest the election was dashed by the apex court when it reserved judgment in the appeal filed by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and a cross appeal filed

by Sylva himself seeking to determine which of the party's primaries should be the basis of the governorship election for April 20. The position taken by the court has cleared the coast for the conduct of the governorship

election in Bayelsa State on Saturday, February 11 by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Sylva had approached the apex court to validate his nomination as the governorship candidate of the PDP for the forth-

coming gubernatorial election in the state. The former governor is contending that his candidacy subsists as nobody petitioned against his success at the said primary election to the

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Prof Aluko, Business Mogul, Dantata, Pass On

After battling an undisclosed ailment in a London hospital in the United Kingdom for several days, renowned economist, Professor Sam Aluko, finally gave up the ghost in the early hours of yesterday. He was 83 years old.

An indigee of Ode Ekiti in the present day Ekiti State, he was an erudite scholar, politician and a staunch member of the think-tank of the first Premier of Western Nigeria, Chief Obafemi Awolowo.

A politician of impeccable character, he was a prominent leader of the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN) in the defunct Second Republic.

Aluko, who was a vociferous social critic, emerged as the Chairman of the National Economic Intelligence Committee during the military regime of late General Sani Abacha and served in the committee till 2000. The committee was charged with the responsibility of monitoring the

By Omololu Ogunmade in Lagos and Ibrahim Shuaibu in Kano with additional reports from our reporters

capital budgets of the government. Aluko was one of Nigeria's most prominent and finest economists who had his own fair share of public exposure. His economic philosophy was patterned after that of John Maynard Keynes.

He became the first Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ife, now Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU). In 1981, he was appointed into a committee constituted to produce a framework for the Bendel State University, now Ambrose Alli University, Epe/Ondo.

He began his teaching career in 1946 and rose through the ranks to become the principal of College of Commerce, Sapelle and later vice-principal of Lagos City College. During the period, he served on various local organizations including membership of

the Ode Ekiti Progressive Union and the Ekiti People's Party in 1953.

He carved a niche for himself in the public sphere through his critical stance on several government policies. He also served as an adviser to a number of governments in the country.

Born on August 18, 1929, Aluko had his elementary education at St. Mary's Primary School, Ode Ekiti between 1936 and 1940; He proceeded to Emmanuel School, Ado Ekiti in 1941 before moving to Christ School, Ado Ekiti from 1941-1945 and later Yaba Technical Institute in Lagos between 1948 and 1949. Between 1955 and 1959, Aluko studied at the London School of Economics, England.

Between 1959 and 1966, Aluko was a lecturer in the Department of Economics at the University of Ife and University of Nigeria, Nsukka respectively. In 1962, he was a visiting scholar at the Massachusetts Institute of

Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts as well as Harvard University both in the United States. He was appointed a Professor of Economics at the University of Ife in 1967, where he served until 1980.

After leaving the University, Aluko picked up a political appointment as Economic Adviser to Governor Adesunde Ajisai of the old Ondo State between 1980 and 1983. Prior to his emergence as adviser to Ajisai, he had been a member of the National Executive Council of UPN. His political career dated back to 1962, when he joined the defunct Action Group (AG) before the First Republic was abolished through a military coup d'etat. He wrote three books and co-authored 12 others.

Aluko was married to Joyce Ofoya and the union was blessed with six children, among who is Mobolaji Aluko, a professor of civil engineering who until his recent appointment as the Vice-

Chancellor of Federal University, Otuoke, Bayelsa State, was a lecturer in a U.S. university.

Commiserating with the Alukos over the demise of their patriarch, President Goodluck Jonathan said the death of the professor was a national loss.

Jonathan in a statement by his Special Adviser, Media and Publicity, Dr. Reuben Abati, said that though the death was a painful one, his family, friends and associates should take solace in the fact that he lived a fulfilled life while his legacies speak eloquently for him.

"As they mourn the late Prof. Aluko, President Jonathan urges his family, friends, associates and admirers to be comforted by the knowledge that the renowned economist lived a life full of many indelible achievements and notable contributions to national development," he said.

Similarly, Ekiti State Governor Kayode Fayemi on his part, assured his Ondo State counter-

part that his state stands ready to partner the family in giving a befitting burial to "this illustrious son of the Land of Honour."

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babatunde Fashola (SAN), yesterday, in his condolence, said, "Indeed the shoes left behind by Aluko will be hard to fill," while praying to almighty God to grant Aluko's soul sweet repose for the great service he rendered to his fatherland.

Meanwhile, Chairman of Dantata and Sincow Construction Company, Alhaji Abdulkadir Dantata, is dead.

He died in a German hospital yesterday and his remains will be flown to Kano today for burial, his personal assistant, Alhaji Aminu Dauda, told THSDAY last night.

The deceased was the eldest son of the late Alhaji Sami Dantata, and the elder brother to Alhaji Aminu Dantata.

The deceased would be buried according to Islamic rites in the commercial city of Kano.

BOKO HARAM Cont'd from P1

Division, Lt. Col. Abubakr Edun, assured THSDAY over the phone, "We are on top of the situation; we are working on a press statement on the explosion; we will bring it to you as soon as it is ready."

Spokesman for the Air Force Training Command in Kaduna, Squadron Leader Mohammed Ali, however, confirmed that the explosion did not happen at the NAF base.

According to him, "The bomb exploded outside the premises of the Air Force Base and as such, the Air Force does not have an opinion on the explosion. Although the explosion was close to the NAF base gate, but it wasn't within our premises."

He added that since the explosion was not within the premises of NAF, investigations into the incident were left for the police to carry out.

Eyewitness revealed that a suicide bomber dressed in military uniform drove to the premises of the headquarters of the 1 Division in a Toyota Sienna passing the first gate.

On passing through the first gate, the soldiers on guard were said to have become suspicious and immediately opened fire on the vehicle possibly setting off the bomb and the death of the suicide bomber inside the vehicle.

Cameras belonging to the African Independent Television (AIT) and the Kaduna State Government-owned Capital TV were seized by soldiers when they reported attempted to take shots of the scene of the incident.

Tight security checkpoints were mounted at the NAF junction in the southern part of the metropolis while the major road leading to Zaria and the Lagos Road were completely blocked by soldiers causing serious traffic congestion in the city.

Sources confirmed that anti-bomb experts were promptly dispatched to the area for investigation and to comb the area to determine if more explosives devices were still hidden.

The Kaduna State Government was yet to make any official statement on the incidents at the time of this report, as a security meeting was said to be going on at the Government House.

Reacting to the failed bomb attempt, Director of Army Public Relations (DAPR), Maj. Gen. Raphael Isai, said soldiers repelled the attack and were able to stop the suicide bomber; taking in a private car from gaining entrance into the headquarters of 1st Division, where he planned to detonate the bomb.

Isai, however, explained that the bomb-laden car exploded after the bomber, who tried to force his way through, was fired at, and consequently shattered the glasses that

cover the front of the Army building, which led to the death of only the suicide bomber.

"This morning (yesterday) reports reaching us from Headquarters, 1 Division, Nigerian Army, Kano, Kaduna State, indicate that there was a suicide bombing attempt by someone dressed in military uniform driving a private car."

"The soldiers at the Headquarters, 1 Division, repelled the attack and were able to stop what would have been a suicide bombing at the frontage of the Headquarters, 1 Division."

"However, after figuring the suicide bomber, who tried to force his way, the bomb exploded and shattered the glasses that adorn the frontage of the headquarters. The suicide bomber was the only casualty," he added.

The Army spokesman noted that the latest attack, which is suspected to have been carried out by Boko Haram, must have been in response to the recent arrest and interrogation of most of its members.

He disclosed that a lot of progress had been made in apprehending and rounding strategic members of the sect's leadership through some of the information provided by both members of the public, and particularly from their captured members.

He said that the security forces were working on fresh information that would lead to further arrests of more of the sect's members and sponsors.

"We are grateful to members of the public for all the information provided so far that has led to the arrest of key members of the notorious Boko Haram sect recently."

"We know that such attack might not be unconnected with recent arrest(s) of some of their key leaders. We are currently working on fresh information that will lead to the arrest of more sect members and their sponsors," he said.

The DAPR also disclosed that the army was working to bring to a halt frequent cases of impersonation and the use of military and paramilitary uniforms by members of Boko Haram to carry out their terrorist and suicide mission acts.

He revealed that the army had concluded plans to alter some features in their uniform as a security measure aimed at stopping the use of the military uniforms by members of Boko Haram and other terrorist groups.

"The army is doing a lot now and I think you will see some changes in our mode of dressing. I think that there will be some adjustment in our mode of dressing, and as far as the soldiers are concerned, you will see some changes (soon)," he assured.

He added: "Any soldier (prob-

ably bombers) who is sympathetic to the terrorist (Boko Haram) cause is not worth being a soldier in the first place, because we took an oath to protect the territorial integrity of this country."

Meanwhile, the Nigerian Air Force issued a statement last night confirming that its base in the city was not affected by the multiple blasts that took place in Kaduna.

This clarification was made by the NAF Director of Public Relations and Information, Air Commodore Yusuf Anas. He disclosed that the bomb exploded about 500 meters away from the air force base.

"This is to inform the general public that the Nigerian Air Force Base, Kaduna was not affected by the bomb blast which occurred at about 12.30hrs. The bomb blast occurred about 500 meters from the air force base outer perimeter fence along Mando Road, Kaduna," Anas said. He further stated that no casualty was recorded in the incident.

Reacting to the multiple bomb blasts in Kaduna, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, has commiserated with the Nigerian Armed Forces over the attacks on their facilities by suspected bombers.

The speaker equally commiserated with the government and people of Kaduna State over the incident.

In a statement issued by his media aide, Ibrahim Imam, Speaker Tambuwal said as men and women of goodwill, Nigerians should not despair over the current security challenges facing the nation.

He said the respect for human life should be utmost to all persons and urged all those who have grievances against the Nigerian state to explore dialogue in sending across their messages.

"Killings and destruction of property will serve no meaningful purpose," the speaker said, adding that with what the country had faced in the last few months, all avenues that would lead to peace, unity and stability must be explored.

"THSDAY, nonetheless, gathered that Bui, who appeared before the FDC on January 24, was charged with negligence of duty, which led to the escape of the Christmas bomber, Kabiru Umar, alias Kabiru Sokoto.

The committee's deliberation, which was held behind closed-doors at the force headquarters' conference hall, lasted for over six hours.

The Bui trial was the last assignment performed by the six DIFs before they were fired following the retirement of the former Inspector General of Police (IGP), Hafiz Ringim, two weeks ago.

He appeared before the committee with some of the policemen from whose custody Kabiru Sokoto escaped.

The source disclosed that if eventually Bui is dismissed, he would be prosecuted for his role in the escape.

An informed source on the committee added that Bui was seriously quizzed on the circumstances that led to the escape of Umar, but he pleaded innocent of all the charges against him.

In a related development, at

least five Boko Haram members have lost their lives while several others sustained gunshot injuries following a shootout between a combined team of army, policemen and suspected members of the sect at Mvriwi on the outskirts of Kano municipality on Monday night.

A resident of the area told THSDAY that at about 6pm on Monday, a combined team of army and policemen accosted a man suspected to be a Boko Haram member, who ran and entered a house at Mvriwi village.

He said there was a heavy exchange of gunfire between the security team and the occupants of the house, revealing that the shootout lasted for over six hours with heavy explosions that shook the entire place.

THSDAY learnt that a bungalow, which was at the centre of the exchange of gunfire, was left shattered while the corpses of two victims were mutilated but the body of one of the victims was later found.

It was learnt that when the security team gained access into the house, they discovered a large trench dug in the middle of the house in which they discovered about 10 AK47 rifles, large magazines and ammunition, as well as bags of fertilizer.

The Commissioner of Police, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris, confirmed the discovery, stating that 10 AK47 rifles, 26 magazines, 106 ammunition and seven bags of fertilizer were recovered in the house. He also said several arrests had been made and no deaths were recorded.

RIBADU Cont'd from P1

enforce payment terms by all industry operators;

- To design a cross debt matrix between all agencies and parastatals of the Ministry of Petroleum Resources;

- To develop an automated platform to enable effective tracking, monitoring, and online validation of income and debt drivers of all parastatals and agencies in the Ministry of Petroleum Resources;

- To work with world-class consultants to integrate systems and technology across the production chain to determine and monitor crude oil production and exports, ensuring at all times, the integrity of payments to the Federal Government of Nigeria;

- To submit monthly reports for ministerial review and further action.

Sources close to Ribadu said he had been under intense local and international pressure to render service to the nation, especial-

ly in the corruption-ridden oil sector.

But he has repeatedly excused himself, giving his ongoing United Nations assignment in Afghanistan as evidence that he was extremely busy.

He had reportedly said he was not opposed to serving the nation in any capacity to advance good governance, but was concerned about stretching himself thin because of his commitments to the UN assignment.

When more pressure was brought to bear last month in the wake of the national outrage over the removal of subsidy on petrol, he was unreachable because family sources said he was at a Manchester Hospital in the UK to visit his only sister who was ill.

But THSDAY learnt that with the Afghan assignment coming to an end, and its report ready to be submitted, Ribadu started getting calls again. Family sources said that it is very likely that he will accept the assignment.

Naira Hits 5-Week High on Subsidy Probe

The naira improved against the United States dollar at both the interbank and the Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) Wholesale Dutch Auction System (WDAS) segments of the forex market yesterday as demand for the greenback from oil marketing companies continues to diminish.

By Obinna Chima

Specifically, at the interbank market, the local currency gained 80 kobo to close at N156.50 to the dollar, compared with the N160.30 to a dollar at which it sold the previous day. The last time the naira exchanged at current rate was on January 4 this year.

At the WDAS yesterday, the naira also climbed by 35 kobo to close at N156.50 to the dollar, stronger than the N156.85 at which it closed last week Wednesday.

The CBN offered a total of \$450 million to dealers, compared with the \$250 million sold last week Wednesday. The apex bank increased its supply at

WDAS to meet the volume of demand because the auction was not held on Monday, owing to the Muslim public holiday.

Deputy Governor of the CBN, Mr. Tunde Leroo, on Tuesday, said the ongoing investigation into the management of the fuel subsidy regime by the House of Representatives had reduced the demand for foreign exchange by major oil importers.

Leroo, who appeared before the committee in Abuja, said there had been a reduction in the forex demand especially in the petroleum sector.

Dealers also attributed the performance of the local currency to increased dollar supply from oil companies, even as

they predicted that the naira could improve further because of the liquidity position of the market.

In fact, they revealed that the interbank market received a total inflow of about \$590 million from Mobil Nigeria, the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation

Continued on Pg. 6

THE NATION, LAGOS, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1993, NIGERIA



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Ribadu, ACN Disagree over Appointment

Former chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and presidential candidate of the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN), Mallam Nurh Ribadu, yesterday said his acceptance of the offer as chairman of the 21-man Petroleum Revenue Special Task Force, was a

From the Abonyi in Abuja

decision he took in the interest of the nation.

Ribadu in a statement titled, 'When the Nation Calls,' said: "At this point in my life, it is also easy to answer the honest question if it is inappropriate to invest

Continued on Pg. 6

Regardless of our affiliations, our differences, and our engagements, it is at least safe to say that we have a national consensus on the deadly impact of corruption... This, therefore, is a national call. In answering it, I go back to the template of my own parents who taught me that honest public service is the greatest asset a person can offer his community.

- Ribadu

As a political party, we wish to reiterate our position barring any member of our party from taking any appointment whatsoever from the PDP-led Federal Government. Any member of our party who takes such an appointment does so in his personal capacity.

- ACN

SSS Storms NTA, Seizes Boko Haram Video Tape

The State Security Service (SSS) on Tuesday night stormed the premises of the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) and took possession of the recorded video tape containing the names of the negotiators that Boko Haram had nominated

• FG open to dialogue • 'Sect is destroying northern economy'

From Ahamefule Ogbu in Abuja

to represent it at the planned dialogue with the Federal Government, THISDAY has learnt.

This occurred before the Federal Government's statement yesterday that it remains open to dialogue as a way of resolving the Boko Haram menace, but added that the series of bomb attacks carried

out by the sect since it started its violent campaign in the North has dealt a deadly blow to the region's economy.

The television station, had during its 9pm news bulletin on Tuesday, aired a recorded

message directed at the Federal Government that announced the names of the sect's nominees to the talks.

THISDAY sources within the intelligence circles revealed that part of the

SSS's grouse against the NTA was that the television station failed to get the necessary clearance from the relevant authorities before it aired the tape. The SSS is

Continued on Pg. 6

Kalu, Alli Head Panel on Refineries

Without prejudice to the on-going rehabilitation and turn-around maintenance (TAM) of the Port Harcourt, Warri and Kaduna refineries, as well as the building of Greenfield refineries in the country, the

From Chineme Okajor in Abuja

Federal Government yesterday set up a 22-man National Refineries Special Task Force to make recommendations that will lead to the overhaul of refining operations and output in the country.

The task force, which was set up in Abuja by the Minister of Petroleum Resources, Mrs. Diezani Alison-Madueke, will be chaired by former Minister of Finance, Dr. Kalu Ikilua Kalu while the former Managing Director of the old Unipetrol, Mallam Yusuf Alli will serve as its alternate chairman.

The task force has been mandated to produce a diagnostic report on the operations, finances and efficiency of Nigeria's four main refineries

Continued on Pg. 6

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION...



L-R: Minister of State, Defence, Erich Oluosola Olanubi; Minister of Aviation, Princess Stella Oduah; and Coordinating Minister for the Economy and Minister of Finance, Dr. Ngud Okonjo-Iweala, at the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting, held at the council chambers of the Presidential Villa, Abuja, yesterday.

TSE	
Dollars	+0.15 (0.15) +5%
NYFAOAI	+0.04 (0.05) +4.9%
LIVESTOCK	+0.02 (0.02) +1%
WAPIC	+0.02 (0.02) +1%
ACCESSBANK	+0.15 (0.15) +2.6%
OHANDU	+0.45 (0.45) +2.5%
Oil Leases	
NAHCO	-0.38 (0.21) -4.9%
GOLDLINK	-0.03 (0.03) -4.9%
DANGFLDUR	-0.34 (0.46) -4.9%
DIAMOND	-0.13 (0.17) -4.8%
GTASSUR	-0.06 (0.10) -4.7%
HPE: Nestle Nig Plc (0141200)	
Notes	
Volume	: 596,351 million shares
Value	: N1,591 million
Deals	: 2,067
*At yesterday's close	
Details on pg. 9	

BOKO HARAM Cont'd from P1

also said to be trying to verify the authenticity of the tape.

A top security source said in Abuja yesterday that "the matter is being investigated, but we have halted it."

Explaining what he meant by "halted", he said: "There was no clearance and the ariates have not been accepted by all the leadership of the group."

He added: "From all indications, the names emerged from a faction of the group and we need to ensure that government talks with the real group."

President Goodluck Jonathan had challenged the sect to make itself available and state its demands to open the way for dialogue.

After days of silence, Boko Haram or a faction of the sect responded on Tuesday by naming Sheikh Abubakar Gero, Dr. Shehina Ali Munguwa, Alhaji Juma Ali, Aisha Al Wakil, and former governor of Yobe State, Senator Bukar Ibrahim to hold negotiations with the Federal Government on its behalf.

The sect's team was made public the same day multiple bomb blasts rocked the Kaduna metropolis. The explosions occurred in the Mechanised Division of the Nigerian Army (Dakel Barracks), 3KM metres away from the Nigeria Air Force Base located along Mandu Road, and the Flyover at Kawo in Kaduna, all within the same vicinity.

According to security sources, the sect sent a recorded video tape to the NTA through a top government official but the broadcast was quickly halted by security operatives.

In the recorded message, the sect stated: "We hereby confirm and accept the rejected initiative of the president for dialogue as a welcome development."

Continuing, the speaker, who was swathed in a black mask, added: "The group trusts the named leaders. The decision taken by these people can actually change the whole situation."

But even as the "SSS" carries out investigations into the recorded message aired on NTA, the arrested spokesman of Boko Haram, Abu Qaqa, has continued to spill the beans on the activities of the group in the interrogation room.

On Qaqa's revelations revolved around the public perception that Boko Haram suicide bombers volunteer to die, which he stated was untrue and that rather they are given insurmountable conditions that make suicide the better option.

"No suicide bomber of the group volunteers to kill himself. They are usually handpicked. Once you are handpicked, it is death either way. If you refuse, you would be killed-on the orders of the leadership, so a lot prefer the suicide bomb option far away from their wives and children."

"At a point, some of us thought suicide bombing was

SUBSIDY PROBE Cont'd from P1

(NNPC) and some other undisclosed oil companies.

However, financial markets stated that the increase in Nigeria's forex reserves has also lifted the naira:

The country's forex reserves had improved significantly by a total of \$1.803 billion in the first five weeks of 2012, from \$32.95 billion as at December 30, 2011, to \$34.718 billion by February 2.

Analysts at Renaissance Capital (RenCap) also declared that the partial removal of petrol subsidy would positively impact the naira, as well as the forex reserves.

RenCap explained: "The halving of the government's petrol subsidy expenditure is

cowardly but confronting" the leadership with such a position would have come with a price which is death," he was said to have informed his interrogators.

According to Qaqa, a security source revealed, what was bad about those handpicked for the suicide mission was that all of them were non-Kanuris.

"They were always Chadians, Nigerians, Camerounians, Hausas-Fulanis, and others. No Kanuris were ever selected. That was why some of us had a divided opinion on it," Qaqa is quoted to have said.

The Federal Government, however, stated yesterday that while it is considering dialogue as an approach to solving the Boko Haram menace, it is also building capacity of the security agencies to deal with the situation.

It also called on all well-meaning people and institutions in the North to make efforts to solve the problem which is destroying the economy of that region.

The attacks, the government continued, had virtually brought the economy of the region to its knees, even as there had been purposed nominees selected by the group as its representatives for negotiations which the government said it was looking into with a view to verifying its authenticity.

Briefing State House correspondents after the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting yesterday, Minister of Information, Mr. Labaran Maku, said the Federal Government was committed to building capacity of the security agencies.

Maku said the measure had started yielding good results, as the agencies had begun to show capabilities of being able to contend with security challenges in the country.

According to him, "A lot of arrests have been made so far. The Federal Government is investing resources in intelligence and we are beginning to see results on a consistent basis."

"More security personnel are also being deployed in trouble spots. It is known to government that our children and citizens are involved in these terror attacks, and it has offered an opportunity for them to come forward and state their grievances."

He, however, insisted that whatever might be the reasons by the group to detonate bombs, it is counter-productive as the economy of the North, which he said lags behind other parts of the country was now being further pulled down by the attacks.

Asked to comment on the group's threat to hit Sokoto next after successfully attacking Kano and Kaduna States, he responded that it is not in the interest of the region.

He said it is not in the interest and development of the region and it is therefore destroying the growth of the region which is slower than others.

expected to reduce arbitrage opportunities in the oil marketing sector. This is expected to allow forex reserves to accrete in 2012, following zero growth in 2011.

"If forex reserves continue to increase at the rate they did in January, then Nigeria is likely to have a stronger forex position in 2012, which is positive for the naira."

"The oil price remains resilient, as it has in early 2012, and stays above our projection of an average price of \$100 per barrel, then there is upside potential for Nigeria's external sector."

"We expect the naira/dollar exchange rate to have a more stable trajectory in 2012, on the back of this."

He insisted that the North, more than any other part of the country, needed stability so that the needed infrastructure could be put in place for them to catch up, but regretted that the attacks were instead retarding the attempts to make the region catch up in terms of development.

"Terrorism in places like Kano is destroying the North as it hits at the heart of the development of the region. The attack on Kano was so significant because Kano has always been the commercial centre of western Sudan for the past 500 years, even before the evolution of Nigeria."

"Kano has been the seat of the economy of the North and the economy of Niger Republic and it is the economy of Chad, it is the economy of Northern Cameroon. So when you destabilise peace in Kano, you threaten the economic and social well-being of all Northerners."

"This is what we want all those involved in this violence to understand and all stakeholders in the North and Nigeria to

understand that if any part of this country is in need of peace today it is the Northern Nigeria."

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He insisted that although the battle for the reversal of fuel price to N65 per litre was not fully won, the Goodluck Jonathan administration was compelled to set the engine in motion for the investigation by EFCC of the monumental fuel importation scam.

He said: "Before the protest, the government had shielded the carted of pumped economic saboteurs smiling to the bank at the nation's expense! The recommendations in the ICPMG report submitted to government in November 2010 and thrown-to the shelves are now to be implemented."

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The Composite Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures inflation, climbed sharply to 12.6 per cent in January from 10.3 per cent in December.

The 2.2 per cent rise in CPI is a setback for the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), which has struggled to contain inflation and stabilise the naira by tightening monetary policy in recent times.

According to the January CPI figures released yesterday

Fuel Price Hike Pushes Inflation to 12.6%

From James Eneja in Abuja

by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), headline inflation had been caused largely by the partial removal of petrol subsidy, which pushed up prices of many food and non-

food items following a hike in transportation costs.

The report showed that the Composite Food Index in January 2010 was higher by 13.1 per cent than the result in the corresponding period the previous year.

Also, the increase in food inflation was said to have been caused by increasing cost of yam, other tubers, cooking oil, meat, fruit, vegetable and beverages.

Year-on-year average annual rate of rise of the index stood at

10.5 per cent for the 12-month period ending January 2012.

The 'All Items Less Farm Produce' index, which excludes the prices of volatile agricultural products, also rose by 12.7 per cent year-on-year, while the average 12-month annual rate

of rise of index remained however stable at 11.8 per cent.

According to the NBS, urban inflation rate also recorded a sharp increase when compared with the rural figure in January.

Year-on-year increase for urban and rural dwellers stood at 16.4 per cent and 9.7 per

Continued on Pg. 8

Another Bloody Day in Lagos as NURTW Clash Claims 10... Pg.7

THIS DAY



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Today's Weather: ABUJA: Cloudy, sunny Temp: 20-31°C • ENUGU: Cloudy, sunny Temp: 24-34°C • KANO: Sunny Temp: 17-38°C • LAGOS: Cloudy Temp: 24-30°C • PH: Cloudy Temp: 21-27°C

JTF Kills 8 Boko Haram Suspects in Shootout

Four days after one of its members was captured at the Baga fish market in Maiduguri, the Boko Haram sect yesterday paid a retaliatory visit to the place, throwing several explosives which shook the ancient town.

In the ensuing gun battle with the men of the Joint Task Force (JTF), several persons were killed. Some residents said over 15 persons were killed but the JTF said it killed eight members of the sect, maintaining that there were no civilian casualties.

It also emerged yesterday that seven victims of the Christmas Day blasts in Madalla, Niger State, have gone blind.

A source at the Baga market claimed that two traders were gunned down by the sect members and several others

7 Madalla blast victims go blind

From Michael Olugbode in Maiduguri and Aisha Wakaso in Abuja with agency report

were injured before the soldiers came.

According to the source, the sect members invaded the market at 1pm and threw several explosives which caused panic.

The blasts drew the attention of the soldiers attached to the JTF stationed near the market and they exchanged gunfire with the sect members.

The source said: "We saw about three pick-up vans loaded with people in front of Ibrahim Taiwo Police Station, opposite the Baga Market this afternoon

shortly after the gun battle with members of the sect, but we cannot tell whether they were corpses or those wounded."

He claimed it was a retaliatory attack on the market.

"The sect members were believed to have attacked the traders in the market following last Thursday's arrest of one of

their members who entered the market to kill a trader but was overpowered and beaten and handed over to men of the JTF," he said.

Confirming the incident to journalists, the spokesman of the JTF, Lt Col Hassan Mohammed, said the task force killed eight members of Boko Haram "during a gun battle".

He said the JTF was informed of an attack in the

Baga Market where three traders were shot by members of the Boko Haram sect.

"Our men who arrived the market engaged members of the Boko Haram sect in gun battle and we successfully killed eight of the sect members where we recovered weapons as well as detonated some IEDs and recovered some others," he said.

Continued on Pg. 8

2015: Jonathan Threatens to Sack Appointees

President Goodluck Jonathan has threatened to dismiss any of his aides or any other appointee of the Federal Government who abandons his job for politics or campaigns ahead of the 2015 election.

He also revealed to his party

Governors, lawmakers' rivalry stalls PDP NEC meeting

From Chuku Okocha in Abuja

men his government's plan to review the implementation of the Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment (SURE) programme because it had become

untenable given the failure of the administration to achieve a 100 per cent deregulation of the downstream oil sector of the economy.

He gave the threat while speaking at the opening of the

emergency National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Abuja yesterday.

The president said: "There must be time to work; at the federal level if you are holding a

political office and I notice that you are involved in meetings for 2015 election, I will ask you to leave and go and hold your meetings because that meeting is too early;

Continued on Pg. 8

Court Stops C'River Governorship Election

A Federal High Court sitting in Abuja yesterday restrained the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) from going ahead with Saturday's governorship election in Cross River State.

From Tobi Soniyi in Abuja

Justice Abdul Kafarati issued the order following an application filed and argued ex-parte by Mr. Nnamengwa Alorie, counsel to the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) and its governorship candidate, Dr. Obel Patrick Okoniso, who are the plaintiffs.

However, INEC still has a chance to salvage the situation as Justice Kafarati abridged the time for the commission to appear before him to defend the suit.

He ordered INEC to come to court on Thursday, February 28th for its defence.

The plaintiffs had argued that INEC did not have the power to reschedule the election to less than 48 days to the initial date fixed for the election.

Continued on Pg. 8

UNVEILING THE FIGURES...



L.R. Chief Executive Officer (CRO), Nigeria Stock Exchange (NSE), Mr. Oscar Onyema; Group Managing Director/CEO, UBA Plc, Mr. Phillips Oduzo; and the bank's Acting Deputy Managing Director, Mr. Kennedy Usoko, during UBA Plc's Facts Behind the Figures, at the NSE in Lagos, yesterday

Top Gainers	
INRHOTEL	+0.06 (N1.20) +5%
DANGFLOUR	+0.20 (N1.20) +10%
OANDO	+0.50 (N19.25) +4%
FILSON	+0.03 (N0.65) +4%
UNA	+0.09 (N1.50) +4%
Top Losers	
FORTECIL	-0.55 (N18.40) -3%
EVANSHED	-0.03 (N0.50) -6%
GOLDLINK	-0.03 (N0.64) -4%
NASCON	-0.15 (N3.65) -3%
WEBA	-0.02 (N0.51) -3%
NSE: Nette Nil Pts (N41.00)	
Lagos	
Volume	358,554 million shares
Value	92,721,910,000
Trades	3,916
*As at yesterday 20/02/12	
Details on Pg. 8	

JONATHAN Cont'd from P1

government must not be distracted.

"Let me plead with those of us that are interested in the general election in 2015. I have noticed that some people have just started some meetings, it is too early to hold meetings."

Jonathan said he decided to issue the threat because a resort to early campaigns for elective offices in 2015 by government appointees is a distraction to him and the governors and urged those involved to desist or get kicked out of his administration.

He said: "It is too early to hold such meetings", adding that "it is even against the electoral laws to commence campaign for an election that is three and a half years away."

According to him, "You people cannot fault the electoral laws and the constitution.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) normally declares it open. The idea is that people who were elected into offices as governors and president should be given enough time to work. In a situation whereby a governor has not even stayed for a year, the president has not stayed for a year; you start harassing people for 2015; this is another way of saying everything is election.

"Nigerians are interested in what we put on ground for them, not how many elections we will conduct and win."

Explaining his administration's commitment to taking another look at the SURE Programme, the president said given the recent economic parameters occasioned by the review of the planned subsidy template, the Federal Government could not start

with the implementation of the programme as planned because of the adjustments that took place in the regulation of price of the petroleum products.

He said over N1.134 trillion was projected as revenue from deregulation based on a projected crude oil price of \$90 per barrel; out of this, N478.49 billion would have accrued to the Federal Government.

The president, who made the clarification following the distribution of the SURE documents to PDP leaders for onward circulation to members, cautioned that the programme's details as contained in the distributed documents, were no longer implementable as had been planned.

He said: "Let me again, I think as I come in, I saw this SURE book being distributed, we are withdrawing it, this is

the old one. We developed this with the expectation that we are going to completely deregulate the downstream sector of the oil industry; the 100 per cent removal of subsidy, you know we could not achieve that, though there was increase in the pump price.

"I don't want this thing to be distributed, it will give a wrong impression when we said that Jonathan government you promise this, what have you done? We are working on a new document based on the reality, but we don't want to promise what we will not achieve. Those who have it please withdraw it, we cannot realise the money that is stated there, but we will still come up with a document based on what we get."

Jonathan warned against the imposition of candidates in the forthcoming congresses and

national convention of the party, saying, "I plead that from the ward congresses to the national convention, let us insist that people are elected democratically.

"Let us begin to move away from the culture of imposition," he said, explaining that this would help give way for free and fair party primaries as 2015 gets nearer.

He called for unity among PDP members, saying, "I plead with all of us to unite so that we project the manifesto of the party and of course for us to achieve this, the party must also insist on discipline."

"I always insist that until the party fires members who are indiscipline, irrespective of their status in the society, or whatever offices they are holding; if the party doesn't have the courage to discipline its members, then of course some people will begin to behave as if they contested elections as independent candidates."

He said there was no way that the PDP could be like the African National Congress (ANC), if it could not enforce discipline.

He said: "We must emulate what happens in South Africa, because the ANC is a strong party; even if the president of the country feels he is bigger than the party, they will push him out from the party. So, nobody should be bigger than the party, the party must insist on that."

Meanwhile, the rivalry between the PDP elected governors and members of the National Assembly of the party yesterday stalled the planned debate on the party's constitution.

As a result of the stalemate, the party's NEC has scheduled another meeting for February 29.

However, the NEC has approved the extension of tenure for the present National Working Committee (NWC) and the NEC till March 31, when a new executive committee would have been elected.

Also, the NEC in session has approved the dates for the ward, local government, state and zonal congresses as well as the national convention of the party.

THISDAY gathered that the bone of contention between the PDP governors and the National Assembly members involve the recommendation by the party's Constitution Review Committee (CRC) for the inclusion of one senator each from the 36 states and the

Federal Capital Territory (FCT) in the membership of NEC and the inclusion of a governor to represent each of the six geo-political zones into the national caucus of the party.

It was further gathered that the decision of the CRC to include 37 senators as members of the NEC is to reduce what a source described as "the overbearing influence of the governors".

The fight to reduce the overbearing influence of the governors is further taken when it was recommended that the governors should not be members of the National Caucus of the party. According to the source, "there is the need to restrict the governors to stay in their states to ensure good governance than their continued stay in Abuja in the name of doing party work".

He said: "At the pre-NEC meeting that took place Sunday night at Chidi Hotel, the members of G84 agreed that they would vote against the governors becoming members of the National Caucus.

"And the governors on their own at a meeting held same Sunday at the Rivers State Governor's Lodge, they agreed to take the matter to President Jonathan for intervention. So, when the PDP governors met Jonathan in the early hours of Monday, it was resolved that the matter be deferred to February 29 when another NEC meeting will take place."

According to him, "the president said that this would enable every member of NEC to study the recommendations and come up with a position."

It was for this reason that yesterday's NEC agreed that another NEC meeting of the party should take place next week to discuss the constitutional amendments, believing that reason would have permitted all recommendations.

Giving details on the approved dates for the national convention and congresses, the National Publicity Secretary, Prof. Ahmed Alkali, said the ward congresses would hold on March 3, while the local government congresses would take place on March 9; the state congresses is expected to hold March 17 and the zonal congresses would take place on March 21, while the national convention is expected to take place on March 24.

REACHING OUT...



L-R: Parish Priest, St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Madalla, Rev. Isaac A. Achi; Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Malan Sausu; and Catholic Bishop of Minna, Niger State, Most Reverend Martin Igwu Uzunkwa, during CBN management's visit to the church to commiserate with victims of Christmas day bomb blast in Madalla, Niger State... yesterday

PHOTO: Sunday Ajagba

CROSS RIVER GOVERNORSHIP Cont'd from P1

According to them, the election had been earlier scheduled by INEC to hold on April 14, 2012 in view of the mandatory timetable set by the Electoral Act for submission of names and addresses of party candidates for that election.

They argued that INEC had no legal justification whatsoever to bring forward the date for the said election.

They said: "Apart from the inconvenience to the parties of suddenly shortening the period they had already taken for granted as available for their preparations for the election, the abridgment of time is ultra vires, null and void and would be a ground for nullifying the

election, if conducted."

The plaintiffs had filed the application asking for an order of interim injunction restraining INEC from proceeding to conduct the election into the office of Governor of Cross River State on the 25th of February, 2012 pending the hearing and determination of the motion on notice filed in these proceedings.

They also asked the court for an order directing INEC to maintain status quo ante litem, that is as at 15th of February, 2012, to refrain from taking further action or steps regarding the revised timetable for the conduct of the election into the office of governor of Cross

River State of Nigeria pending the hearing and determination of the motion on notice filed on the 15th of February 2012 in these proceedings.

In an affidavit attached to the application, ANPP said that INEC's reason that it brought the election forward because of the judgment of the Supreme Court which removed five state governors from office was not tenable in law.

"That the Supreme Court judgment did not place any constraint on INEC to abridge or tamper with the timetable it had set on the 11th August 2011 for the governorship election in Cross River State nor has it created any situation which the 1999 Constitution cannot cope with as the governor and his deputy duly vacated their office pursuant to the judgment and the Speaker of the House of Assembly has taken over as governor pursuant to Section 191(2) of the Constitution," the affidavit added.

"They further explained that the Speaker, under the constitution, could act as governor for a period of 90 days until elections were held and a new governor sworn in and there was no need for INEC to conduct an election immediately.

They said that INEC would not lose anything if the elections were held on 14th of April, 2012

as earlier scheduled.

"That on the other hand, the applicants will be prejudiced if the election is brought forward to the 25th of February 2012 as INEC now proposes, because the validity of the nomination of the 2nd plaintiff will be jeopardised by non-compliance with section 31(1) of the Electoral Act 2010," the affidavit added.

According to him, the three traders shot at the market did not die as they were taken to hospital where they were receiving medical attention.

"The number of dead could not be less than 30," a Maiduguri hospital nurse told AFP news agency.

Mohammed had said several people had been wounded but that there was "no civilian death at this time".

He said the military "immediately came to the rescue of the situation and safely detonated three bombs planted by members of the sect and shot and killed eight members of the sect".

However, a trader who gave his name as Mairami said six gunmen stormed the food and commodities market and "opened fire indiscriminately. At least 30 people including women and children were

BOKO HARAM Cont'd from P1

killed".

Another vendor by the name Gana gave AFP a similar account of the attack.

"The gunmen just opened fire killing people. I saw three military vans piled with bodies leaving the market. There were several explosions after the shooting," Gana said.

The attackers had accused traders of collaborating with the military following the arrest last week of a suspected Boko Haram member in the market witnesses said.

Mairami said one gunman shouted angrily that traders had "teamed up with soldiers" to help arrest members of the sect.

"We have henceforth waged war against you," Mairami said the gunman had declared, before spraying bullets on both vendors and customers.

Meanwhile, the Central

Bank of Nigeria (CBN) yesterday donated N25 million to the families of the victims and those affected by the Christmas Day blasts at St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Madalla, Niger State.

The Parish Priest, Rev. Father Isaac Achi, said that seven of the 83 injured members of the church "have gone permanently blind".

"Out of the 127 victims, we lost 44; out of the injured, seven lost their sight; four are still at Gwagwada Special Hospital, eight at National Hospital, while others have been referred to Kano, Zaria, Lagos and Enugu," he said.

Achi further disclosed that some of the injured had been discharged after treatment, adding that the bomb explosion brought a lot of pains and sorrow to the community that was once peaceful and calm.

FUEL PRICE

The report noted that the inflationary impact of the partial subsidy removal was largely felt in urban areas relative to the rural areas where most Nigerians reside.

However, the current inflation rate, though significant, was said to have been moderated by demand factors in January.

"First, due to the proactive monetary policy from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in the second half of 2011, inflation was expected to drop to between 8 per cent

and 9 per cent in January 2012 (assuming there was no partial removal of subsidy).

"This earlier tightening by the CBN therefore helped to curtail the overall impact on inflation in January 2011 following the partial subsidy removal of subsidy.

"At the same time, the slow release of funds by the government's FAAC reduced effective demand by reducing available resources for backing increased consumption and expenditure during the month," the Bureau

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, likely a page number or reference code.

FG Approves 'Conditional Dialogue' with Boko Haram

The Federal Government yesterday deliberated upon and adopted most of the recommendations of Alhaji Usman Galtimari Committee on security challenges in the North-east after a review by another committee headed by Minister of Interior Abba Moro.

A final decision was reached to dialogue with the fundamen-

From *Ahaneffula Ogbu*
in *Abuja*

talist Boko Haram and other groups if they renounce violence.

Boko Haram has been carrying out a bombing and killing campaign in many Northern states, claiming it wants to

Islamise Nigeria.

The details of the recommendations of the committee inaugurated by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Senator Anyim Pius Anyim, on July 2, 2011 and submitted September 2011 to Vice-President Namadi Sambo

were harmonised in a white paper to be published in a gazette being worked on by the Ministry of Justice.

It will also remove discrimination through the indigenesetter dichotomy in states for an enduring peace in the country. Briefing State House corre-

spondents after the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting, Minister of Information, Mr. Labaran Maku, and Moro said also prime on the recommendations was collaboration between the states, local governments and the Federal Government to create jobs and

wealth for the teeming unemployed in the country.

Maku said the adoption of the position of dialogue had been spoken of several times by President Goodluck Jonathan and that any sect that drops arms and embraces "jaw jaw" would not receive a cold shoulder from the government "which is the father of all".

House in Rowdy Session over CBN's Donations ... Pg. 7

Continued on Pg. 6

THIS DAY

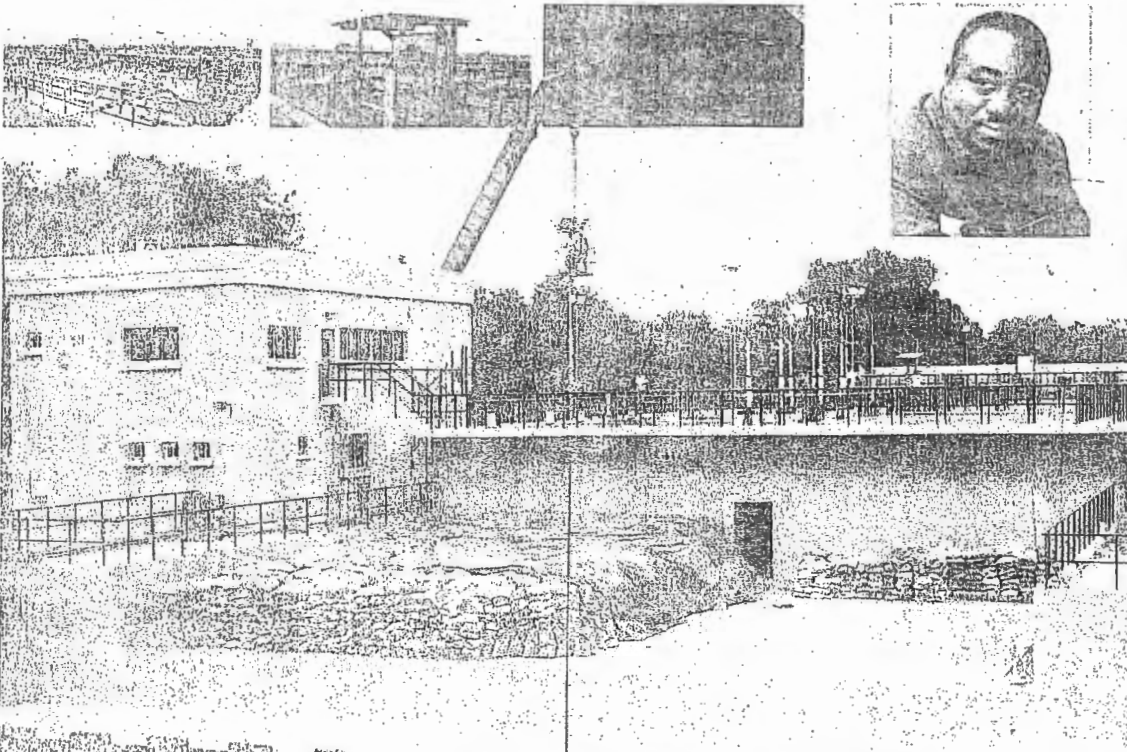
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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Greater Makurdi Water Works with a 100,000 cubic metres pd capacity, constructed by Governor Gabriel Suswam ready for commissioning by President Goodluck Jonathan GCFR



Audit: NEITI Seeks Prosecutorial Powers

By Ejirofor Alike

The Nigeria Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI) is seeking a fiat from the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) to prosecute oil companies that failed to provide relevant information during the 2006-2008 audit of the oil and gas sector.

Legal Adviser of NEITI, Mr. Peter Ogbobinne, disclosed this yesterday in Lagos at a special workshop on "understanding the audit template" organised by the agency.

Reacting to concerns raised by oil and gas industry operators that the companies that failed to cooperate with the agency in the

previous audit were not sanctioned, Ogbobinne disclosed that they were awaiting approval from the office of the AGF to move against the affected companies.

Ogbobinne, who noted that the Act that establishes NEITI does not require it to obtain presidential approval before moving against defaulting companies, however stated that the agency does not have the powers to prosecute offenders.

"We don't have the powers to prosecute. We can only go through the Attorney General of the Federation to get fiat. That is

the same problem that EFCC is facing. We are already approaching the office of the Attorney General for the fiat. We have also written to the affected companies and we are waiting for the AGF. We have also approached the National Assembly to review that Act, like the ICPC did, so that we don't need to go through the AGF," he said.

Also speaking, the Executive Secretary of NEITI, Mrs. Zainab Ahmed, stated that the workshop was organised to help the various stakeholders to make

input in the 2009-2011 audit template.

She noted that NEITI was aware that none of the previous audits would attract the kind of attention and public interest that would be expected in the 2009-2011, which NEITI was about to commence.

"This is as a result of recent and ongoing developments in the sector, which has led to increasing public suspicion and allegations of corruption in the sector," she said.

Ahmed stated that a Nigerian

firm, Sada Idris & Co, had been engaged, while Haruna Yaha & Co is to conduct audit of the mineral sector.

She noted that the audit was a fundamental step by NEITI to meet its national mandate as required by the Act of 2007, as well as Nigeria's international obligations as a member of the global extractive industries' transparency initiative.

"Therefore, all companies in the sector that have embraced corporate governance, honesty, good business ethics and best

practices have nothing to fear," she added.

Ahmed also stated that the 2009-2011 audit was coming at a time both national and international attention had been drawn to the sector, perceived largely to be opaque and corrupt.

According to her, it is also the first time that auditors and chartered accountants that are completely owned and managed by Nigerians were to handle the exercise, adding that these developments had put the auditors and NEITI on a tight rope.

N6bn Fresh Pension Fraud Uncovered

'How N24bn was withdrawn for N3.5 billion payment'

The Senate yesterday told that the initial figure of N12 billion fraud discovered in the administration of the National Pension Scheme for which 32 staff members of the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation are facing court charges, had now increased to N18 billion following the uncovering of fresh N6 billion additional embezzlement.

Disclosing this to the Senator Aloysius Elok-led Joint Committee on Establishment, States and Local Government which is investigating the pension fund management in the country, the Chairman of Pension Review Task Team (PRTT), Mr. Maina Abdurasheded, said as a result, the court charges had been increased to encompass the new discoveries.

Abdurasheded also told the committee how officials of the Police Pension Board used falsified documents to withdraw N24 billion from the Budget Office for the payment of pension that required only N3.5 billion.

He said through this discovery, the Task Team recovered N20.5 billion balance of the money lodged in a First Bank account.

He told the committee that the team discovered two major accounts in Lagos where pension fund for the police was lodged and said one account had N21 billion, while the other had N24 billion.

Abdurasheded, who disclosed that the police pension fund was under the team, said when he discovered that on a daily basis various sums of money from N200 million to N300 million were being withdrawn, he applied to the Accountant General of the Federation (AGF) for the transfer of the accounts.

He said in his application that since the headquarters of the Police Pension was in Abuja, the accounts should be moved to two new accounts to be opened in Fidelity and UBA banks but that the then Head of Service Dapo Afolabi told him to hands off the pension fund.

The committee, after listening to Abdurasheded's submission, directed him to make available all relevant documents relating to the transactions including bank statements; cheque books and other documents that would assist the committee in arriving at drawing its report.

Abdurasheded also told the

From Kanle Akogun in Abuja

committee that the revolution introduced in the nation's pensions fund management by former Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Mr. Steve Oronsanye, had simplified the administration and disbursement of the pension scheme to beneficiaries.

He disclosed that as at December, last year, a total of 49,395 pensioners including those who retired as far back as 1968 who had never been enrolled had now been verified and their biometrics captured, bringing the total number of pensioners on the payroll to 120,733.

"Prior to the introduction of the biometric system, government had been paying 141,799 pensioners up to the tune of about N3.3 billion as regular monthly pension," Abdurasheded disclosed, saying however that "following the exercise, it was found that 70,657 pensioners were qualified and eligible to draw regular monthly pension out of the 141,799 pensioners who were hitherto on the payroll".

The PRTT boss also disclosed that the government spent N250 million yearly between 2005 and 2011 on pensioners' verification exercise, adding however that "in order to avoid this and cut cost, we devised a system of smart card through which the pensioners could now receive their pay through the ATM".

He further enumerated other achievements of the PRTT to include: "reduction of pension wage bill from N5 billion to N1.6 billion monthly resulting in N3.4 billion savings from June 2010 to December 2011".

He asserted that the PRTT discovered and reported to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) colossal loss of pension funds by the former management and staff of the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation (OHCSEF) where N24 billion and land parcels carted away were recovered and that the case was currently in the Federal High Court, Maidama, Abuja.

"Due to the diligence of the PRTT, N35 billion is sitting in various banks of the OHCSEF pension office; another N28 billion was saved from the restructuring of the Police Pension Office," lamenting however that the team was directed to stop the restructuring half way.



•L-R: Chief Anofi Gtobadai; Chief Chris Ogunbanjo; First Republic Federal Permanent Secretary, Mr. Henry Oseno; and former Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Mr. Olu Vincent, during a thanksgiving service to commemorate Oseno's 90th birthday at the Cathedral Church of Christ, Marina, Lagos... yesterday

BOKO HARAM Cont'd from P1

The white paper also dwell on the duties of security forces and their commitment as well as intelligence-gathering which failure, the Galtimari committee declared, led to the sectarian violence.

But Malu said it would not be tidy to dwell much on the recommendations till a clean copy of the gazette is released.

Other recommendations to be published in the gazette include the reformation of the almajiri education to make it comply with contemporary systems that can absorb the large armies of youths that form ready armies for by politicians.

Malu said: "Today, the report was extensively discussed in council particularly the white paper which spells out government views on the recommendation that was made by the white paper committee. Mr. President attaches strong importance to the need for peace not only in the North-east but indeed in other parts of the federation and that was why today we took such a long time to discuss this report. Suffice it to say at this point that government has discussed all the recommendations of the Galtimari report and we have come up with government positions on those recommendations in the white paper."

"The report is extensive. It covers the remote causes of the crisis in the North-east and other parts of the North. It also covers various levels of responsibilities from community to local government to state and to Federal Government in tackling the menace of violence and terror in the North-east and other parts of the federation."

"The report also covers the

responsibilities and operations of security agencies in bringing this about as well as the political aspects of the report which we believe must be addressed pari passu with the security measures that the Federal Government has taken to bring this crisis under control and eventually bring it to an end.

"We've discussed, we have taken decisions on them but we cannot go into details because it is a white paper. And so the decision of the Federal Executive Council will have to go to the Ministry of Justice where the final paper will be gazetted and issued centrally and when the gazetted white paper comes out, we will be able to unveil the details to members of the public. But suffice it to say at this stage that government is doing everything that is necessary to ensure that we defeat this violence; will bring about peace and security not only in the Northern states but in the entire federation."

He said they discovered that the issues noticed in the North-east also cut across other sections of the country, adding that they would apply the same measures aimed at achieving peace.

"For instance, on the issue of indigenism and settlerism, the recommendation of the committee was to the effect that government should emulate the situation in Sokoto State where there is no discrimination in terms of education and employment. And so these are issues that affect the lives of Nigerians, issues and recommendation of creation of employment opportunities were raised and government has accepted to encourage state governments and local governments to collaborate with the Federal

Government on that across the country. So by and by, it is our hope that by the time these issues are documented and presented and address the very basic issues that create agitation in Nigeria that we would have peace then economic and political development can take place," Moro said.

Galtimari had identified "massive unemployment of youths, both skilled and unskilled; existence of private militias that were established, funded and used by politicians and individuals and then dumped after having been trained to handle arms; presence of large number of almajiris who together with those mentioned above could easily be used as cannon-fodders to ignite and sustain crisis; influx of illegal aliens resulting from porous and unmanned borders coupled with provocative and inciting preaching by some religious leaders; extra-judicial killing of the sect leader Mohammed Yusuf and some members of the sect by security agents; and weak governance and failure to deliver services in the wake of huge resources accruing to states and local governments" as part of the causes of the violence.

It recommended that "the Federal Government should fundamentally consider the option of dialogue and negotiation which should be contingent upon the renunciation of all forms of violence and surrender of arms to be followed by a rehabilitation programme on the side of government. The Federal Government should create an informal forum at the highest level, where Mr. President will discuss national security issues with governors and other stake-

holders from time to time. Again, there is an urgent need for arranging an informal forum where Mr. President will grant audience to each state governor on one-to-one basis where issues on security, could be addressed. The Federal Government should diversify and strengthen its means of creating avenues for international intelligence sharing and inter-agency cooperation through diplomatic channels".

PEC also deliberated on having a standard method of attracting investors into the country after a study revealed that there were bankable projects that investors were waiting and willing to invest in across the country but have been held back by lack of standards on such Public Private Partnerships.

It directed that all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) should establish offices - Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) - and outline projects ready for such partnerships so that they would be presented to investors.

Top Gainers	
NIBL	+0.65 (N19.65) +5%
CADRYL	+0.48 (N10.09) +4%
NCR	+0.51 (N10.74) +4%
LEARNARI	+0.14 (N1.22) +4%
DANGELOUR	+0.20 (N2.22) +4%
Top Losers	
AVINCROWN	-0.26 (N2.11) -4%
REYSTAR	-0.11 (N2.19) -3%
UDA	-0.14 (N2.83) -4%
IKEDJDEL	-0.18 (N1.64) -4%
LIVESTOCK	-0.06 (N1.23) -4%
ITPE	Negative N/A (N0.00) 0%
Lagos	
Volume	: 199,178 million shares
Value	: N1,797 billion
Deals	: 1,867
*As at yesterday 07/03/12	
Details on pg. 50	

NNPC Tightens Conditions for Oil Lifting Contracts

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has modified the conditions that will be met by companies wishing to bid for the lifting of Nigeria's crude.

The corporation also plans to pruned the list of winners to ensure that only reputable local and international compa-

By Chika Amanze-Nwachuku

nies are selected.

A company source told THISDAY yesterday that trimming of the list was part of the strategies that would be adopted by the corporation to ensure that only "fit and proper" firms would benefit from the crude oil term contract.

The corporation has often been accused of allowing political considerations to influence its business decisions.

Last year, the NNPC included commitment to invest in Nigeria's power sector, domestic gas supply, construction of oil refineries in Nigeria, as well as undertaking development projects in the Niger Delta region as

some of the criteria for the award of the crude contracts.

Previously, the corporation also listed the criteria to include: evidence of the applicants' readiness to comply with Nigerian government's local content policy in the oil and gas industry; investment in the upstream sector to increase national oil reserves and pro-

duction capacity; investment in the downstream projects in refining, petrochemicals, distribution and storage of petroleum products, gas utilisation projects; independent power plant projects (IPP); and railway construction.

The NNPC also in 2011 said that interested companies must post an annual turnover of \$500

million and net worth of not less than \$100 million.

But in its just-released tender for the 2012 contract, the corporation excluded investments in Nigeria as part of the criteria but instead increased the annual turnover and net worth to \$600 million and \$300 million respectively.

Continued on Pg. 8

THIS DAY

WORLD WEATHER • ABUJA: Sunny Temp: 20-36°C • ENUGU: Cloudy, sunny Temp: 24-34°C • KANO: Sunny Temp: 17-37°C • LAGOS: Cloudy Temp: 24-31°C • PH: Cloudy Temp: 21-29°C

Boko Haram: JTF Begins House-to-House Search

In a renewed offensive to end the Boko Haram insurgency in parts of Borno State, the Joint Task Force (JTF) has begun a house-to-house search operation to flush out members of the group from Maiduguri, the state capital.

The JTF, explaining its latest move, operation, said yesterday that the return of house-to-house search by its troops in some flash points of Boko Haram attacks within the Maiduguri metropolis was aimed at fishing out the sect's members and providing adequate security for the people of

From Michael Ohgboke
in Maiduguri

the town.

Spokesman of the task force, Lt-Col Sagir Musa, said in a statement: "What you are seeing (movement of troops to some areas and search of houses) is a routine patrol conducted by the JTF in areas considered as flash points."

He also said: "Targeted and deliberate cordon-and-search

will be being carried out in some selected locations of Abbagaram, Budum and Jajeri."

Musa advised residents not to panic over the presence of the JTF patrol vehicles and troops even as he urged the people to continue their legitimate business "unmolested and support the task force in its efforts to

maintain law and order".

He also said that the search-and-cordon exercise would be a continuous one.

Meanwhile, the foster father of the captured Boko Haram former spokesman, Abu Darda (also called Abu Qaqa), was killed on Monday evening in Maiduguri by gunmen believed to be members of the sect.

Also killed by the sect were a retired Deputy Comptroller of Prisons, AbulFahri Bello, and a retired prison officer whose name could not be ascertained as at last night.

A security source told THISDAY that Bello, popularly known as DC, and his friend were performing ablution in

Continued on Pg. 8

Tukur: I'm Not in PDP to Play Politics

The new National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Alhaji Banianga Tukur, yesterday assumed office with other members of the National Working Committee (NWC), declaring that he had come to

From Chuku Okocha
in Abuja

transform the PDP and not to play politics.

He also warned members of the NWC that their membership of the executive committee should not be seen as a platform to launch their political career.

Speaking when he officially took over from the former acting national chairman, Alhaji Abubakar Barje, Tukur said: "We have come to transform and build a great party, not to play politics. We have come to help politicians play decent politics, politics based on fairness (on a) level-playing field. We have come to be neutral referees the PDP needs right now."

Tukur explained that the relationship between the executive arms of government and the

Continued on Pg. 3

FTSE 100	
The General	+0.12 (125.41) +0.5%
ADMIRAL	+0.15 (12.12) +1.2%
CADBURY	+0.05 (11.54) +0.4%
ASL	+0.02 (11.54) +0.2%
LIVESTOCK	+0.05 (131.57) +0.4%
BARCO	+0.08 (11.78) +0.7%
Top Losses	
CCNY	-0.25 (14.75) -1.7%
TOTAL	-0.14 (115.17) -0.1%
UAC	-0.17 (125.77) -0.1%
VEEDFAM	-0.16 (10.17) -1.6%
SICRYBANK	-0.39 (13.92) -2.8%
IIPE	Next Ng Plc (N162.37)
News	
Volume	406.298 million shares
Value	₦3,113 billion
Deals	4,011
As at Monday 17/01/12	
Download on pg. 12	

INSPECTING IPP...



L-R: Anambra State Governor Peter Obi; a director in Cenrax, United Kingdom, Mr. Guy West; and Fabricator Manager, Arab Shipping and Repair Yard, Bahrain, Mr. Joaquim Coutinho, during Obi's inspection of the progress of work on the badge for independent power generation in the state... yesterday

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House Raises the Alarm on Nigeria's Rising Debts

... Gives Jonathan 60 days to submit debt ceiling

The House of Representatives yesterday urged President Goodluck Jonathan to, within the next 60 days, submit to the National Assembly the country's debt ceiling in line with the provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007.

Section 42(1) of the Act states: "The President shall within 90 days from the commencement of this Act and with advice from the Minister of Finance subject to approval of National Assembly, set overall limits for the amounts of consolidated debt of the federal, State Governments pursuant to the provisions of items 7 and 50 of Part I of the Second Schedule of the constitution and the limits and conditions approved by the National Assembly, shall be consistent with the rules set in this Act and with the fiscal policy objectives in the Medium Term Fiscal Framework."

The lower chamber of the National Assembly said pegging the limit to which government could borrow had become necessary given the fact that Nigeria's total debt portfolio had risen to an all-time high of N13 trillion.

Also yesterday, the House of Representatives mandated its Committee on Employment, Labour and Productivity to investigate the performance of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of government in relation to some unethical labour practices such as casualisation of workers in the country.

The resolve to demand the submission of a debt ceiling came through a motion sponsored by the Minority Leader of the House, Hon. Femi Gbajinmi (ACN/Lagos), and endorsed by a cross section of the lawmakers.

In the lead debate, Gbajinmi noted that since the Act came into effect about five years ago, the president had not complied with the provisions of Section 42, a situation which, he said, had led to arbitrary borrowing by both the federal and state governments.

"The overall intention of the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007 is to enable us live within our means and only engage in prudent and responsible borrowing where necessary. The non-implementation of Section 42 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007 is capable of encouraging imprudence and recklessness in government borrowings and improper utilisation of borrowed funds to the detriment of our economic growth. It is a provision designed to instil fiscal discipline and restrain government from arbitrary borrowing and frivolous expenditure. If we do not put a stop to the culture of borrowing by placing a ceiling to what government can borrow, we stand the risk of accumulating debts for our children and future generations."

From Onwuka Nwashi in Abuja

Gbajinmi said.

Others who spoke in favour of the motion were Hon. Femi Gbajinmi (APGA/Anambra), Hon. Shehu Garba (CPC/Kaduna), Hon. Mohammed Monguno (ANPP/Doma), as well as Hon. Mohammed Wudil (PDP/Kano).

The quartet argued that it was important to seek the implementation of a law passed by the National Assembly than to continue to keep silent in the face of a looming debt crisis.

However, the trio of Hon. Jerry Manuwa (PDP/Baraba), Hon. Amos Anasiri (PDP/Abia) and Hon. Adams Jagaba (PDP/Kaduna) kicked against the motion and insisted that passing it would amount to a self-indictment on the part of the House of

Representatives and the National Assembly.

They argued that the National Assembly could not exonerate itself from Nigeria's growing debt profile as both chambers had always granted the requests of the president for additional borrowing every successive fiscal year.

The lawmakers, who opposed the motion, acknowledged that the provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility Act had been flouted, but said that the way out was not to vilify the president but for the parliament to either invoke the necessary sanctions in the constitution or oppose any further requests for loans.

In spite of this sharp division, the motion sailed through in a voice vote. Although the House put the

figure at N13 trillion, the official figures from the Debt Management Office (DMO) put domestic debts at N5.6 trillion and foreign at \$7 billion, giving an overall figure of roughly N6.65 trillion.

Co-ordinating Minister of the Economy and Minister of Finance, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, said recently that Nigeria's debt-to-GDP ratio was currently 20 per cent and the government had set a ceiling of 30 per cent.

The highest ratio recommended, going by international standards, is 60 per cent which she said Nigeria was well below.

A second motion on the need to protect Nigerians from the casualisation policy practised by some foreign firms operating in Nigeria was also passed after its

sponsor, Hon. Yusuf Tajudeen (PDP/Kogi) carpeted some Asian firms in Nigeria for their alleged inhuman treatment, unhealthy environment and unfavourable work conditions they impose on their employees.

Section 7(1) of the Labour Act, Cap. L1 Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 2004 states that every worker in Nigeria must be given a written statement of employment by his/her employer after three months, while the

Factories Act, Cap. F1 Laws of the Federation, 2004 gives powers to the Director of Factories and the Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity to embark on periodic inspection of such companies to ensure compliance with the various health and safety provisions of the Factory Act.

However, Tajudeen alleged that the Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity had not lived up to its responsibility in the enforcement of the Labour Act.

According to him, Nigerian employees in these companies were paid terribly low wages with no statutory terminal benefits; pregnant women were not granted maternity leave and employment contracts were terminated at random contrary to Nigerian Labour Laws.

He expressed concern that due to non-compliance with existing labour laws, many Nigerians that worked in some of these firms suffered partial or permanent disabilities while many others died in penury.

The House Committee on Employment, Labour and Productivity has been mandated to investigate these allegations and submit a report in four weeks.



L-R: CEO, Bank of Industry, U.C. Eoslyn Ogunu; President, Dangote Group, Alhaji Aliko Dangote; Ogun State Governor Ibikunle Amosun; Chairman, GTB, Chief Segun Ajobaj; and Managing Director, Stanbic Bank, Mrs. Jolita David Dorlin, at the Ogun State Investors' Forum in Abeokuta, yesterday.

National Assembly must be cordial to enable both arms play its crucial roles to the benefit of the electorate.

To this, he said: "We have come to ensure that both the executive and the legislature are on the same page—which is, to make Nigeria great economically, socially and politically."

He said his role as chairman of the party would be to help President Goodluck Jonathan concentrate on "sound management" of the economy so that he would focus more on the economy than on partisan politics.

According to Tukur, "We shall offer sincere, dedicated service which will make PDP, the party of choice for governance. My support staff and my team will never use this office as a platform for launching political

TUKUR Cont'd from P1

careers. They are here to work, work, and work in uniting PDP into a great party and helping government turn the economy around."

He also said that with God on his side, PDP would greatly ensure that there would be a United States for Africa, pledging that he would follow the dictates of the party's manifesto to the letter, while saluting the former NWC for their efforts in sustaining the PDP, promising that he and his team would strengthen their efforts.

Barnje had tasked the new NWC to focus attention on how to ensure internal reforms by intensifying democracy within the party, as well as asking the new team to endeavour to be independent in its operations with little interference in the affairs of

the party at the state level.

Barnje, who challenged other political parties to emulate the internal democracy within the PDP, said: "We challenge other political parties to come out and conduct their conventions as we have done. We are not angels of doom. PDP is the party that has brought true democracy through conduct of elections."

The handover ceremony was witnessed by former national chairman of the party, Senators Bamias Gernale and Ahmadu Ali; former chairman of the party's Board of Trustees (BoT), Chief Anthony Anenih; former Senate President, Chief Ken Nnamani; and the former Deputy Senate President, Alhaji Ibrahim Manu; among other dignitaries.

NNPC Cont'd from P1

of the 42 companies that got the contracts.

Of the 28 companies granted approval to export between 30 to 60 barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil in 2008, only seven were said to have investments in Nigeria.

The contention of stakeholders was that most of the companies that won the contracts were "brief case" concerns with no

known investments in Nigeria. Most of the companies, which only exist in the books of the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), were foreign firms, THISDAY learnt.

Some indigenous stakeholders who were not satisfied with the manner in which the contracts were awarded over the years had also alleged that some of the reg-

ular beneficiaries were companies owned by retired military chiefs, former NNPC chiefs, politicians and their firms. It was also gathered that only a few Nigerian companies benefited last year. The three biggest beneficiaries that clinched contracts of 60,000 bpd each were oil trading giants Vitol, Tullifera and Glencore.

BOKO HARAM Cont'd from P1

ty operates an edge in their battle against the fundamentalists and the only way to keep him in check is to send a message to him that if he cannot be killed, he could be touched and the only way to do this is kill someone who is very close to him."

In a related development, the JTF has killed two members of the sect in Maiduguri while they were alleged attempting to escape from custody.

In a press release, Musa said: "Following a tip-off, a special operation was conducted that resulted in the arrest of a notorious commander of Boko Haram who was involved in recent attacks in Maiduguri."

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Teaching Hospital (UMTH).

He said items recovered in their hideouts included: a pump action gun, two pieces of bow and arrow, three machetes and a telephone hand set.

Musa said the incident occurred at about 1:30 pm yesterday.

He revealed that in another incident in the town after a distress call was received by the JTF, led to the killing of some suspected bandits.

According to him, the JTF responded to a distress call during which they engaged a group of suspected bandits, who had robbed some houses in EYN Farm Centre, Kachulari in Maiduguri city.

He said during the shootout with the bandits, two were gunned down by the military and the others fled.

He revealed that three locally-made pistols, 15 rounds of assorted ammunition, four machetes and a telephone hand set were recovered from the bandits.

Regional Integration is Consensus at S'South Summit

President Goodluck Jonathan, Nobel Laureate, Prof. Wole Soyinka, World Bank Managing Director John Lipsky and the governors of the six states in the South-south geo-political zone of the country have all stressed the need for regional economic integration as a means of fighting poverty and underdevelopment in the

*From Victor Efeizomor
in Asaba*

country. The leaders also cited corruption, bad leadership, bad policy implementation and insecurity as major hindrances facing developing countries amidst abundant human and capital resources. These positions were articu-

lated at the Second South-south Economic Summit held in Asaba, the Delta State capital, convened by the BRACED Commission, an acronym for Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Cross Rivers, Edo and Delta. Jonathan, who was represented by Vice-President Namadi Sambo, said: "My vision for the South-south and indeed Nigeria is for us to

develop an economy that should be sustainable without oil." He added that, "it is a fact that world oil reserve has limitations and has therefore become absolutely necessary that we use our present opportunity to create economy devoid of oil for our future. "We are aware of the fact that in many parts of the world,

oil has only resulted in creating rivalry, rife, corruption and even worse. However, oil can also be a blessing or a war, but with creativeness, we can serve our people through good planning, transparency and good governance. I can see from this summit that qualities and intentions as well as the foundation for the achievement of set objectives are being put in place.

Several developed countries in the world do not have oil but have developed robust economies." Delta State Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan in his welcome address remarked: "As a state of over four million people and largely oil-producing, we account for about 3.0 per cent of the

Continued on Pg. 10

THIS DAY



PHOTO: Gaskin Omigidi

**Global outrage as bombers target newspaper
Gallant Nigerians confront terrorist in Kaduna
5 killed in Abuja, another 3 in Kaduna attempt
We can't be intimidated, say THISDAY Editors**

Stories on Page 10, 11, 12



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Nigerians Condemn Attacks on THISDAY Newspaper

Nigerians continue to condemn yesterday's bomb attacks on THISDAY properties at Abuja and Kaduna. President Goodluck Jonathan has urged media practitioners not to be dissuaded from carrying out their fearless campaign for peace, justice and equity as democracy cannot flourish without press freedom.

The president, in a statement by his Special Adviser, Media and Publicity, Dr. Reuben Abati, reaffirmed the commitment of the Federal Government to continue to uphold the constitutional right to freedom of expression in general and of press freedom in particular, pledging that criminal elements bent on instilling fear in the minds of Nigerians and foreigners would not succeed.

South-south Governors in a joint statement, said: "We totally condemn the bomb attacks on the premises of THISDAY newspaper in Abuja and Kaduna State. It's barbaric, cowardly and condemnable. We call on security agencies to fish out the perpetrators of this heinous crime and bring the full weight of the law to bear on them."

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aminu Tambuwal, has described the attacks as "worrisome and unfortunate."

He said as the conscience and watchdog of the society, "any attack on the media signals a dangerous trend whose consequence could be devastating to the polity".

Also in his message, Deputy Senate President, Senator Ike Ekweremadu, said: "An attack on the media is therefore

By Our Correspondents

an attack on the very fabric of the conscience of our society and the fulcrum of our unity, democracy, and good governance which every Nigerian must stand up against."

In his message, former Vice-President, Atiku Abubakar said: "The attacks on media houses are a dangerous dimension to the insurgency in the country and government needs to be more creative in tackling the menace."

In Lagos, the state governor, Babatundé Fashola, expressed sadness over the incident and said the attacks are uncalculated and unwarranted. He argued that the use of violence against unprotected civilians contradicts the spirit and letters of the UN Declaration of Human Rights and AU Charter on Human and People's Rights.

His Osun State counterpart, Rauf Aregbesola, described as strange and confounding, the attacks by terrorists in the country.

Also sympathising with THISDAY, Governor Peter Obi of Anambra State, who commended the laudable role the media are playing in the deepening of democracy, growth and development of the country, wondered why any person who loves peace and progress should resort to attacking that vital sector or any sector for that matter.

The Newspaper Proprietors' Association of Nigeria (NPAN) in a statement by its General Secretary, Comfor Obi, said the attacks on THISDAY came against the backdrop of earlier warning by

Boko Haram, which had made its intent to launch an onslaught on the Nigerian media.

The NPAN said it "finds it difficult to understand why the sect would make the media a target when the media is only performing its social and constitutional duty of reporting events as they unfold."

Former Minister of Aviation, Mr. Femi Fani-Kayode, said: "What a wicked and senseless act this is and what a tragedy for Nigeria. I condemn it wholeheartedly and my commiserations and heart go out to my

brother Nduka Obajigbena."

Also in his message, former Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Mallam Nasir el-Rufai, said: "It is very, very sad, I am very shocked at this, those that write and report news are not the problem, I don't know why anyone will like to kill people like that, it is so sad and unfortunate."

Similarly, the Media Rights Agenda (MRA) in its condemnation of the attack said in a statement that: "We are extremely concerned by the apparent helplessness of the Federal Government as well as the law enforcement

and security agencies in the face of this relentless onslaught on the Nigerian people which has caused hundreds of innocent citizens their lives in the last several months."

In the same vein, the Nigerian Guild of Editors (NGE), in a statement by its president, Mr. Gbenga Adefaye, said: "When you attack the media the way THISDAY attacks were done, freedom of speech, expression and thought come under assault and democracy is threatened."

President of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ),

Mohammed Garba, said: "It is really unfortunate that such incident is happening to the media and this has further confirmed that journalists are not safe, our media houses are not safe."

Others who also voiced condemnation are the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Emeka Ihedioha, Benue State Governor, Gabriel Suswan, International Press Centre, Gbenga Daniel, Muslim Media Practitioners of Nigeria, and The Nigerian National Committee of the International Press Institute (IPI), among others.

A Few Metres away from Death

THISDAY reporter, Senator Iroegbu, recalls his close shave with death

It was an unusual morning in several ways, very unusual because it is not often part of my daily routine to head to the office in the early hours of the day instead of going to the field to monitor news events and return to the newsroom later in the evening to file my reports.

Nevertheless, I decided to get to the office first in order to review the papers and afterwards head to my beat for the activities of the day.

I however used the opportunity to fix my car's tyre, which was flat, while reading papers and surfing the internet for both local and international news. While waiting for the tyre to be fixed, I suddenly heard a loud explosion, which threw me off balance.

Instinctively, I tried to escape through the back door but the impact of the explosion was massive and I crawled under a nearby desk.



Iroegbu

I lay still for a second, confused and dazed wondering what could have caused the explosion, which was both dramatic and unreal to me. I must have lost

consciousness, because I only became conscious that some broken glasses, ceiling materials, dusts and smoke began to descend on me before I made an instinctive escape out of the building.

While outside the building, I watched in horror how the roof was flying in the midst of the dark smoke that had by then enveloped the building with shattered glasses all over the place. My third instinctive move was to dive my car, which was very close to the burning building, to a safer place, afraid that it might explode.

Having successfully done that without having any slightest idea that I was hurt, I headed back to the building to retrieve my laptop and other items in order not to lose any information after my laptop of three and a half years was stolen from my car two-weeks ago.

With my laptop retrieved but damaged, I decided to move

away from the premises after discovering some minor cuts on my lower arm and the back of my head close to my ear lobe. Traumatized and confused about the next line of action, I tried to make the final escape from the building but was stopped by the sudden discovery that one of my colleagues was lying in a pool of blood; and that the back exit gate had been shattered by the suicide bombers and was now on fire.

I yelled for help from people from the Utako Motor Park who were now charging towards the front gate, which had been permanently locked for over two months now as part of the security measures.

They were able to force the gate open, enabling me to drive with pains to the hospital while manoeuvring through the sea of touts who were banging on my car with others making their way into the burning premises in apparent move to either help or grab what they could.

It was later at the Kings Cross Hospital, Wuse 2, where I had gone to receive treatment at the emergency and accident ward that I saw another THISDAY staff member whose skin had been peeled off by the blast. I also learnt that two or three persons at the back gate through where the suicide bombers made their entry into the THISDAY premises had died on the spot.

I gathered that the huge printing machine installed at the building, which absorbed most of the shocks, prevented the total collapse of the building.

I give thanks to the Almighty who made it possible for me to be alive, as I never thought that I could escape the attack.

A Phone Call Saved My Life

My colleague, Paul Obi, had sent an invitation to me, via SMS, on the media briefing by the National Tourism Photo Competition 2012, slated for yesterday, at NICON Luxury and Suites located at the city centre, Abeja.

The day began like usual; no mention of whatsoever that anybody would ever envisage hitting THISDAY office, not even with a bomb. Concerning the assignment for the day, I really wasn't excited about it. Why? I just felt: what would be there really for a reporter who is not a photojournalist to be doing there?

As it has become my tradition, I usually get to office every morning to read newspapers, check my mails and perhaps set my routine for day. While I was at the top-most office, flipping through the dailies, the coordinator of the photo event, Miss Funke

Twice-lucky THISDAY reporter, Dele Ogbodo, recounts how he escaped yet another bomb attack after surviving the UN House blast last year

Matewu, who had been divinely assigned to provide an escape route for me, called at 10am to remind me that the media briefing would start at 10.30am.

She said: "Where are you, right now?"

I was still busy with my laptop when she kept calling. I told her I was on the road to the venue, which is a distance of 20 minutes. Sluggishly and reluctantly, I packed my laptop, my tape recorder, a jotter and a pen, and left for the event. The clock on the dash-

board of my car read 10.45am. The back gate through which we now passed was opened by two of the security guards who would usually search your car before letting you go.

I hit the road and was directly in front of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), when I saw several missed calls of a colleague with the Daily Trust newspaper, Mr. Shehu Abubakar.

I pulled up and called Abubakar, who said: "Is it true that your office was bombed?"

national population and about 30 per cent of national oil production and export. Oil and gas account for 65 per cent of our GDP and 85 per cent of our revenue from federal allocation.

"Sadly one major drawback of depending on oil was that we were not able to develop our non-oil sector in agriculture, solid minerals and tourism. As a government, we were determined to change that. As a government we knew we must diversify our economy from its dependency on mono-culture source to other sources that are more empowering, that are more sustainable and can create wealth for our people."

President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, represented by the Chief Executive Officer of Rwanda Development Board, Mr. John Kigara, said the South-south shared similar history with Rwanda.

He stated that the zone had a

S'SOUTH SUMMIT Can't find Pi

lot of economic advantages over some countries, adding that oil which had been the mainstay of the Nigerian economy is derived from the zone.

President Kogame advised African leaders to avail themselves of the Rwandan experience by fashioning a holistic approach towards reviving their economies, as well as facilitating development in their areas. He advised that security challenges should be adequately tackled through a more pragmatic and common tier between the South-south zone and Africa at large.

Soyinka, who delivered the keynote address, informed the South-south governors to embrace social-economic development of the areas through infrastructural development of the region.

He urged them to shun corruption and foster a common goal, adding that they should

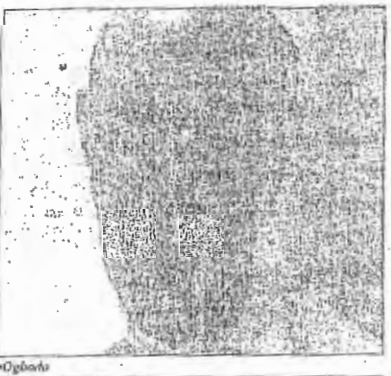
create a community of interest where issues bordering on ways of fast-tracking their economy would be articulated.

He said for any nation to achieve economic growth and development, the country needed an assembly of people with proven integrity who would examine their present with a view to determining their future.

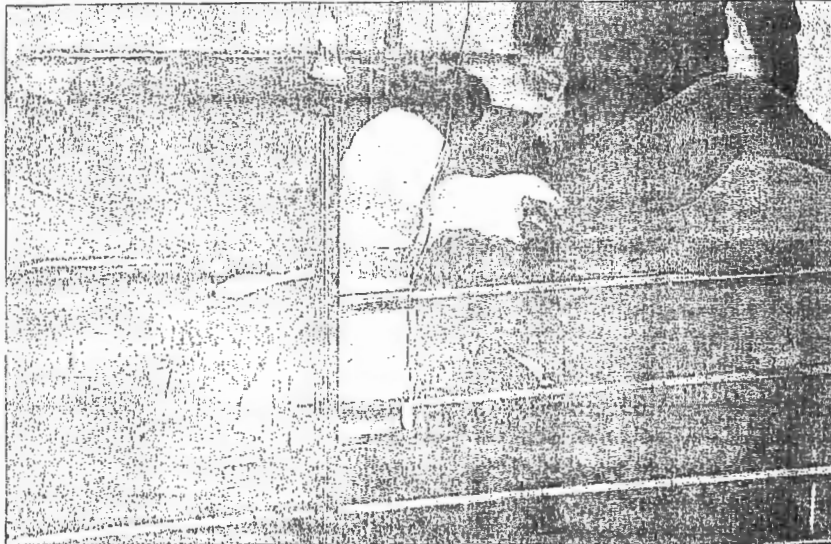
Soyinka posited that the basic judgment of any humanity, especially for the political leaders, is to leave a legacy where there would be visible stature for the overall benefit of the people, adding that they should show more practically to their actions rather than being rhetorical.

He said the demand for national conference was borne out of the recognition of an unfinished business as many people have acknowledged, in various forms, that Nigeria is not yet a nation.

NICON LUXURY AND SUITES	
Room Category	
DOUBLE	+N8,30 (N155,000)65
TRIPLE	+N15,00 (N210,000)65
TOTAL	+N23,30 (N365,000)49%
CONVIL	+N15 (N21,25)49%
NCR	+N81 (N17,41)49%
Tax/Service	
PORT TRAIT	+N10 (N1,60)47%
ALANY BAKER	+N10 (N1,99)47%
LIVE STOCK	+N25 (N1,80)44%
FLOUR MILLS	+N41 (N57,59)44%
ERT	+N20 (N1,80)44%
HTP	+N20 (N1,80)44%
Lease	
Value: 319.572 million shares	
Value: N3219 million	
Ducks: 4308	
As at yesterday 760,012	
Details on page 30	



Ogbodo



Victims of the bomb blast at the National Hospital in Abuja... yesterday

PHOTO: MUSA ADE

They Can Bomb Our Offices but They Can't Bomb Our Resolve!

Terrorists launched simultaneous bomb attacks on the offices of THISDAY in Abuja and Kaduna yesterday, but the newspaper issued a statement last night maintaining that it remained committed to its founding principles: democracy, free enterprise and social justice.

"We will not be deterred in our pursuit of truth and reason. No amount of threat or intimidation can weaken our resolve," the newspaper said in a statement signed by its Managing Director, Mr. Eniola Bello.

The newspaper called on the security agencies to thoroughly investigate "the obviously co-ordinated attacks and fish out the masterminds".

Boko Haram last night claimed responsibility for the attacks, according to an online report. They also said they were going to attack more media houses except favourable reports were published about their activities, according to the website.

The Abuja attack was launched five minutes past 11am. A man in an SUV gained entrance to the compound, rammed his car into the building housing the printing press and ignited a massive explosion.

The roof was blown off, power generators burnt and the printing press severely damaged.

The attacker died while a security man, named Christopher Saif, also lost his life. Three persons by were also killed, bringing the casualty figure to five. Eight members of staff sustained injuries.

In Kaduna, about the same time, THISDAY's office was also targeted, although the building also houses two other newspapers.

The State Security Service (SSS) confirmed the attacks in a statement issued by its spokesperson Marilyn Ogar.

SSS said two persons, in a cream-coloured Honda Accord (also called Academy) car with registration no. AL 305 MKA, drove into SOJ Global Communications and Investment Limited Plaza, located at R9, Kofowale road, Ahmadu Bello Way, Kaduna.

One of the assailants, Umaru Umaru Mustapha, reportedly alighted from the car with a container of improvised explosive device (IED).

Mustapha, who hails from Maiduguri, Borno State, was immediately challenged by two passers-by who suspected their mission.

He threw the bomb at them, killing them instantly. He then pulled out a pistol and fired into the air to scare other passers-by and run away.

He was eventually overpowered, arrested and handed over to the police, although nine persons were injured in the attack and were taken to the hospital.

"While the Service sympathises with families of victims and the deceased, we wish to applaud the rare gallantry and patriotism exhibited by well-meaning members of the public who risked their lives to save others. We therefore call on all good citizens to rise up to the challenge of bringing an end to the menace of terrorism in our dear country," Ogar said.

Another version of the story had it that the Kaduna bomber drove dangerously into the premises, hitting a part of the gate with the hope of detonating the bomb.

Shops within the area were immediately closed as police cordoned off the area.

However, it was very difficult for the police to move into the building as angry youths from all directions besieged the place.

We will not be deterred in our pursuit of truth and reason. No amount of threat or intimidation can weaken our resolve, the newspaper said in a statement signed by its Managing Director, Mr. Eniola Bello

By Our Reporters

It took the army and police team a hectic time to control the crowd. They had to resort to firing into the air and flogging the youths to make way for the fire fighting vehicles to move into the premises to put off the fire on the car. Their grouse with the security agents was that they were not allowed to kill the suspected bomber.

The bomber was said to have wired 11 camp cylinders together and connected them to the steering wheel of the car.

Jamil Abubakar, who witnessed all the drama, told a slightly different version of the story. He said: "I was striding by when I saw a man drive a Honda car very dangerously into the office complex. I was coming from the other end. I saw it. He crashed on the wall.

"Then he came out of the car and started chanting, 'Laila inallah! Bomb! Bomb! Bomb!' People started pursuing him and grabbed him. They started beating him. They said he had to show them the bomb.

"He was well beaten. He was taken to the car. He opened the bonnet of the car and quickly took what looked like a bomb to me. It looked like it was manufactured. I was a bit far.

"But I saw when he flung the bomb over the gate of the complex and it fell on some of the people waiting outside to see what was happening. It exploded with a loud bang. I ran away. Fire started because some cars and motor bikes caught fire.

"I came back and saw three corpses. I counted them they were three. That you cannot doubt it. But there were some people that were injured. Some of them were badly hurt. Maybe eight of them.

"In the commotion that ensued, the man escaped and hid in some part of the complex. But the angry youths combed the place and found him.

"They again beat him very severely. I am surprised he did not die. The Army and police later arrived and rescued him. The youths, still burning with anger, poured petrol on the car and burnt it. The fire you are seeing from the car is not caused by the explosion. It was people that set fire to the car."

THISDAY circulation clerk, Mr. Moody Emmanuel, who was also in the office at the time of the incident, said the bomber parked the car and started shouting, saying that the car would explode.

"It was around 11:00am when someone ran up to tell us that we should run. He said there was bomb within the premises and we should run.

"At first we thought he was joking, but we noticed that he was dead serious. So we ran for our dear lives. We left the premises before the bomb finally exploded.

"The bomber was pursued by people around the neighbourhood. He was caught and he was beaten seriously. Everybody along the street was gripped by fear and confusion," he said.

Those injured were rushed to the St. Gerald Catholic Hospital and Rakiya Memorial Hospital, Kaduna for medical attention.

Kaduna State Police Commissioner, Alhaji Mohammed Jinjiri, who spoke with journalists at the scene of the incident, said one person was killed in the incident.

He also confirmed the arrest of the suspect who was thoroughly beaten by angry youths, saying that he was receiving medical treatment at the Police Clinic in Kaduna.

Two-Minute Briefing

NEWS

US: It's An Attack on Free Speech

United States has condemned the bombing of THISDAY newspaper offices in Abuja and Kaduna by the Boko Haram sect, describing it as an attack on free speech.

Page 12

EDITORIAL

The Challenge Before Kim

After an unprecedented contest that saw the United States' nominee challenged for the first time in the history of the Bretton Woods institution, Dr Jim Yong Kim was last week chosen...

Page 15

POLITICS

Muhammudu Buhari: When Words Are Sacred

Former Military Head of State, Major General Muhammudu Buhari, recently had a rethink of his decision to quit politics and said he would contest the 2015 presidential poll.

Page 16

WEEKENDFILE

Have You Abandoned Your Matrimonial Bed?

Although sex is primarily made for reproduction, but more than that, it is meant for pleasure of the couple.

Page 19

BUSINESS

Credit to Private Sector Now N14.207tr

Banking sector credit to the private sector increased significantly by 11.3 per cent to N14,207 billion as at March this year, as against the 12,762 billion it was the previous month, data obtained by THISDAY has shown.

Page 23

CITYSTRINGS

Ogun Raises the Bar Crime against Crime

Last week, Ogun State Governor, Senator Ibikunle Amosun handed over Armoured Personnel Carriers, security vans, as well as other equipment purchased by the state government for the use of security agencies in the state.

Page 40

INTERNATIONAL

Charles Taylor Found Guilty of Aiding Sierra Leone War Crimes

International judges have found former Liberian leader Charles Taylor guilty of aiding and abetting war crimes during the Sierra Leone civil war.

Page 45

SPORTS

Eagles Got May 6 Resumption Date

The Super Eagles have been given up till May 6 to reconvene in the Federal Capital, Abuja ahead of the international friendly against Peru in Lima scheduled for May 23 and the upcoming Nations Cup and World Cup qualifiers in June.

Page 55

THISDAY NEWS

AG. GROUP NEWS EDITOR: NDUBUISI UGAH

ANOTHER BLAST...



Scene of the bomb blast at THISDAY Office, Kaduna... yesterday

PHOTO: Idris Epa

US: It's An Attack on Free Speech

United States has condemned the bombing of THISDAY newspaper offices in Abuja and Kaduna by the Boko Haram sect, describing it as an attack on free speech.

Reacting to the attacks on Thursday, State Department Spokesperson, Victoria Nuland, said, "This is an attack not only on innocent people but on free speech itself in Nigeria and we call for a full investigation holding those responsible to account."

She said US shares the concerns about the threat that Boko Haram poses, adding that this was among the reasons that its cooperation with Nigeria so that "the vulnerable populations in the North of Nigeria can't be attracted or coerced by Boko Haram."

Also yesterday, the Nigerian in Diaspora Organisation in the America (NIDO), the apex and umbrella organisation of all

As Nigerians in Diaspora express solidarity with THISDAY

From Tokunbo Adedaja in New York

Nigerians residing in both North and South America - condemned the attack and described it as a despicable act of cowardice.

"We stand in solidarity with THISDAY to mourn with the families of those who lost their

loved ones to the coward's," NIDO said in a statement jointly signed by its Chairman, Mr. Ganiyu Dada, Secretary, Chief Gabe Okoye, and PRO, Ms. Zainab Sheri.

While applauding the courage of those patriotic Nigerians who apprehended suspected bomber of THISDAY Kaduna office,

NIDO said, "There efforts helped to minimize the damage in that episode, but more importantly, the SSS now has a culprit to interrogate."

It urged Federal Government to re-evaluate current state of security with a view to upgrading the efficiency of her intelligence gathering apparatus.

We're Not Deterred, Says The Sun Newspaper

The management of The Sun Publishing Limited, publishers of The Sun Newspapers, yesterday said it would not be deterred by the bomb explosion which rocked its North West Zonal headquarters in Kaduna, Kaduna State.

In a statement signed by Managing Director/Editor-in-

Chief of the company, Mr. Tony Onyima, said: "Despite this seeming set back, The Sun Publishing Limited, remains undeterred and refuses to be intimidated in its quest for a better and safer Nigeria. We will continue to report without fear or favour and with utmost sense of responsibility and patriot-

ism."

Onyima, who confirmed that "no staff of The Sun died or suffered any physical injury", however said: "The police and other security agencies have since moved in to investigate the matter. The security operatives have also taken custody of the driver and suspected suicide bomber."

The statement read: "At about 11.30 am today, Thursday, April 26, 2012 an explosion occurred at the premises of our North West Zonal headquarters in Kaduna, Kaduna State."

"The property located along Kontagora Road equally houses the state offices of two other media organisations, namely THISDAY newspaper and The Moment newspaper."

Lagos Police Beef up Security

Following the attack on the Abuja and Kaduna offices of THISDAY Newspaper, the Lagos State Police Command, yesterday beefed up security around media houses in the state.

THISDAY gathered that the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Umar Manko, had ordered all area commanders from Area A to M, as well as all Divisional Police Officers within the state to also beef up security. Confirming the security beef up, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Joseph Juyeeba, said: "Due to the bomb blasts, news workers media houses are situated in the state would have increased police presence."

By Chiemeli Ezeobi

He said although there had been no bomb threats in the state, the move was necessary because most media houses in the country have their head offices in Lagos.

He said: "In light of the recent bomb attacks at THISDAY Newspaper Houses in Abuja and Kaduna, the CP has directed all the area commanders and DPOs in the state to beef up security around all media houses within their jurisdiction."

House Wants Privatisation of Delta Steel Reviewed

The House of Representatives yesterday urged the Federal Government to reconsider the privatisation of Delta Steel Company (DSC), Owian-Alafia, and investigate the unfriendly labour policy of the Indian firm which acquired it a few years ago.

The DSC was privatised in 2005 and about 80 percent of the shares sold to Global Infrastructure Nigeria Limited (GINL), a company owned by

From Onwuka Nzeshi in Abuja

Indians while Nigerian Government retained the remaining 20 per cent.

Sponsor of the motion, Hon. Sadiq Mohammed, described the policy of the new investors as slavish, oppressive, obnoxious and discriminatory. He lamented that even though the Federal Government had equity shares in

From Tobit Soniyi in Abuja

The senator who represents Borno South Senatorial District told the court that the proof of evidence filed by the prosecution did not in any way link him with the alleged criminal charges.

He said the charge was devoid of the essential ingredients to

the firm, it left the management and control of the company in the hands of the new investors, while taxes deducted from the workers' salaries were never remitted to the Board of Internal Revenue.

According to the lawmaker, workers currently in the employ of DSC were not paid their monthly salaries as and when due, labour unionism has been outlawed, yet union dues were deducted monthly.

BRIEFLY

THISDAY Director Robbed

A Director in Advert and Marketing Department, THISDAY Newspapers, Mrs Labake Yembra, was last night attacked by suspected armed robbers at the Mile 2 along Appa-Oshodi Expressway, Lagos, on her way back from the office. The robbers who launched the attack whilst Yembra and another colleague were held up in traffic, broke into her car, destroying the glass windows, before robbing them of their cash and other valuables including their hand bags, telephone handsets, jewellery and wristwatches. "My whole body is filled with smitherings of smashed glass windows," she lamented.

Compensation to Properties Owners

Governor Kayode Fayemi of Ekiti State yesterday presented cheques of N189,860,923 as compensation to people whose properties would be demolished to pave way for the dualisation of the New Garage. Ojomose-Okeyinmi Baptist Church road and Atkankan-Igbeln road, in Ado-Ekiti, the state capital. This came, as market women in the state declared their readiness to support the governor for a second term in office to continue what they called the "good work going on in the state."

Consumption of Cassava Bread

The Federal Government, in a bid to encourage the consumption of cassava bread will from July 1 this year impose a 65 per cent levy on wheat flour. The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Akinwumi Adeshina who said this on Thursday in Abuja noted that the move will bring the effective duty on the product to 100 per cent. For wheat grain, he said the import duty will attract a levy of 15 per cent thus bringing the effective duty to 20 per cent. Similarly, the minister disclosed that a levy of 25 per cent will be imposed on brown rice to bring the effective duty to 30 per cent.

Charges: Ikuforiji Faults EFCC

Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Adeyemi Ikuforiji, has faulted a preliminary objection filed by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) against his motion to quash the criminal charge instituted against him before a Federal High Court in Lagos. The Speaker, in his reply on points of law to the EFCC's objection, was insisting that the argument advanced by the anti-graft agency in support of its objection, was not only misconceived, but also not supported by law.

Taraba Delegates Endorse Odusile

Taraba State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) yesterday endorsed the candidature of Mr. Wahied Odusile, as the next Deputy President of the union, come May 25. In an unprecedented manner, the council chairman, Mr. Abdullahi Gamba, raised Odusile's hand amidst ovation from the state delegates and assured him of total support. The six-man team, led by the Chairman of Lagos NUJ, Comrade Baji Danmoye, had on the board, the Financial Secretary of the Lagos council, Ayo Bori; Media Consultant, Otunba Yomi Olofinle; and the Director of the campaign organisation, Alhaji Olualekan Osiade.

Nigerian Idol Winner

Rivers State Governor, Mr. Chibuike Amaechi, has assured winner of the 2012 edition of Nigerian Idol, Mercy Chinyo, of the state government's support towards her education and music career. Amaechi spoke when the Nigerian Idol winner paid him a courtesy visit at Government House, Port Harcourt, Wednesday. "I want to say congratulations to you for winning because you merited it," he said.

Enugu Orthopaedic Hospital

Enugu State Government has approved the immediate purchase of essential medical and electrical equipment for use by the Burns Care Unit of the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Enugu. The state Commissioner for Information, Mr. Chika Ugwueke, disclosed this during a press briefing at the end of the State Executive Council meeting presided by the state Governor, Sullivan Chime, at the Government House, Enugu.

Overhauling of Security System

Former Director-General, Nigerian Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, Jos, Professor Muzali Nur Alkali, yesterday reviewed the nation's security problems, saying it was high time the Federal Government took tough steps that would put an end to it so as to accelerate the socio-economic growth of the nation.

SEC Hosts Bloomberg's Boss

Director General of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Ms Aruna Oteh, will today host Mr. Peter Grauer, global Chairman of Bloomberg, the New York City, USA headquartered global provider of digital type business information, data and analytics to an all-important Business Leaders' breakfast meeting. The event will explore avenues and draw up a strategic architecture for enhancing performance in the Nigerian capital market through a more efficient use of digital technology and analytics in making information and data more readily available to end user participants in the market.

INEC Bans Public Rallies

As political parties aspirants are preparing for the October 20 gubernatorial election in Ondo State organising public events, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) yesterday banned all forms of public rallies in respect of the election. The INEC's ban was contained in statement signed by the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) Ondo State, Mr. Aldin Orebili, threatening to prosecute in the law court any pollifer party or aspirant that flouts the rules and regulations of the conduct of the election.

Documents Link Boko Haram to bin Laden

• 2 professors killed in Kano terror attacks • Worshippers killed in Borno

There was some form of regular communication between Osama bin Laden and the Boko Haram sect, documents recovered from the Pakistani house of the slain al-Qaeda leader have revealed.

From Ibrahim Shuibui in Kano and Michael Olujobode in Maiduguri with agency report

This effectively confirms the suspected external link to the Nigerian fundamentalist group, which again struck at the

Bayero University Kano yesterday, killing two professors and 15 others at two church services.

The Boko Haram militants also struck last night at a church in Jere, near Maiduguri, Borno State, killing three persons.

According to a report in the

Guardian of London, bin Laden appeared to have been in direct or indirect communication with Boko Haram as well as many other militant outfits.

The question of whether Boko Haram, which has been responsible for a series of sui-

cide attacks and bombings in the last year, is in touch with al-Qaeda or one of its affiliates had been hotly debated by analysts, according to the newspaper.

"But documents in the cache show that leaders of the

Nigerian group had been in contact with top levels of al-Qaeda in the past 18 months—confirming claims made to the Guardian in January by a senior Boko Haram figure," the newspaper wrote.

Continued on Pg. 8

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NNPC to Enforce Content Act, Revises Oil Lifting Guidelines

A major breakthrough has been recorded in the efforts to enforce compliance with the Nigerian Content Law by oil and gas operations, as the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has finally reviewed the 2012/2013 crude oil lifting guidelines to comply with the Act.

The NNPC was accused by local operators of acting above the law when it deliberately issued 2012/2013 guidelines for crude oil lifting contracts to favour foreign contractors, prompting the intervention of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and the Presidency.

But following THSDAY's report, which prompted the intervention of the NCDMB and the Presidency, NNPC at the weekend issued new guidelines to conform with the Nigerian Content Act.

Under the new guidelines, the NNPC adopted part of the 2011 rules, which required that the contractor must show evidence of yearly turnover of \$500 million; minimum net worth of \$100 million; and investment in the upstream sector to increase national oil reserves and production capacity.

In the previous guidelines, the NNPC had required that each

By Ejirofor Alhke

applicant would pay a \$5 million deposit before buying the first oil cargo, but this deposit has not only been reduced to \$2.5 million in the latest guidelines but would also form part payment for the first cargo.

Also to ensure that the guidelines comply with the Act, interested applicants are now required to provide commitment from prospective shippers to lift Nigerian crude, "that a minimum of five slots per cargo shall be set aside for ocean-going attachment of Nigerian outlets for the purpose of obtaining international certification."

"Interested applicants must

submit a Memorandum of Agreement with shippers demonstrating a credible strategy to grow Nigerian equity in the tankers nominated to lift allocated Nigerian crude to 25 per cent by 2014 and 90 per cent by 2017. It should be noted that evidence of Nigerian equity in the nominated tankers prior to conclusion of the process shall give under competitive advantage," said the guidelines.

The new guidelines also require interested applicants to submit a detailed Nigerian Content execution strategy to the satisfaction of the NCDMB, clearly setting out Nigerian Content commitments for subcontracting in some selected

areas of the economy.

These areas include insurance and legal services; banking and financial services; training and capacity building and cargo inspection and survey.

A local operator, who spoke on the new development on condition of anonymity at the weekend, expressed appreciation to the Federal Government for "calling NNPC to order".

THSDAY had reported that the Federal Government might be forced to cancel the earlier guidelines issued by the corporation as it violated the Act and would have effectively excluded local companies from the crude oil lifting contracts.

Before the intervention of the

Presidency, the NCDMB had directed NNPC to cancel the initial guidelines but the spokesman of NNPC, Dr. Levi Ajionnu, insisted that the guidelines had come to stay, adding that it was meant "to separate the boys from the men".

Some local contractors had threatened to challenge the guidelines in court, alleging that the Group Managing Director of NNPC, Mr. Austen Oniwon, had pitched his tent with foreign contractors by making the conditions too stringent for the local companies.

The NNPC had complied with the Nigerian Content Act in the 2011 tender, as it required participants to show evidence of com-

pliance with the Act before being considered eligible for lifting Nigerian crude.

The 2011 guidelines also required applicants to show evidence of yearly turnover of \$500 million; minimum net worth of \$100 million; and investment in the upstream sector to increase national oil reserves and production capacity.

Other requirements were: evidence of investment in the downstream projects, refining, petrochemicals, distribution and storage of petroleum products, gas utilisation projects; Independent Power Projects (IPP); and readiness to invest in railway.

But in what would have ensured that indigenous companies with massive investment in Nigeria were disqualified in the initial tender for 2012/2013, the NNPC excluded investments in the country as part of the criteria and also jacked up the yearly turnover and net worth to \$600 million and \$300 million respectively.

Also, in what would further ensure that the scheme favoured mostly foreign contractors with very deep pockets and easy access to international capital, the NNPC had also provided that each applicant would pay a \$5 million deposit before buying the first oil cargo.

Swiss-based Vitol, Glencoe and Amsterdam-based Trafigura are some of the foreign traders that would have been more favoured if the first guidelines had succeeded.

THSDAY gathered that it is only in Nigeria that foreign traders buy directly from national oil company as most crude oil exporting countries prefer to deal directly with refineries.

ATTACK ON BUK



*An injured victim of the Bayero University Kano (BUK) shooting being taken out from an ambulance outside the emergency unit at the Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano... yesterday

PHOTO: AFP

Loyal have Marya

A catalogue of attacks on churches in the last one year...

Suleja July 16, 2011

A bomb attack killed three persons at All Christian Fellowship Mission in Suleja, Niger State.

Madadala Dec 25, 2011

At least 44 persons died and 57 others injured in an attack at St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Madadala, Niger State.

Jos Dec 25, 2011

An explosion hit the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Church, Jos, Plateau State. A policeman on guard was killed. Two bombs were found in a nearby building.

Gadaka Dec 25, 2011

Explosion rocked a church in Gadaka, Yobe State.

Suleja Jan 26, 2012

Five persons were injured as a bomb went off near Christ Embassy Church, Suleja.

Jos Jan 26, 2012

A suicide bomber drove his explosive-packed car into Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN) Jos, killing two and injuring 30.

Jos March 11, 2012

At least eight persons were killed and many others wounded after a car bomb exploded close to St. Finbar's Catholic Church in Jos.

Kaduna March 8, 2012

A car bomb went off near Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) and the All Nations Christian Assembly (ANCA) in Kaduna on Easter Sunday, killing at least 40 and injuring dozens more.

A Boko Haram spokesman had boasted after the attacks on Police Headquarters in Abuja last year that the group had just trained a generation of suicide bombers in Somalia in what was seen then as a direct link to al-Shaabab, a Somali terrorist group aligned to al-Qaeda.

Boko Haram is also believed to be working with Al-Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), based in Algeria.

Witnesses to yesterday's Kano carnage said one of the services was being held outdoors, while the second was inside a building, but with an overflow audience outside.

An AFP correspondent counted six bullet-riddled bodies near one of the two sites, while another dozen bodies could be seen on a roadside by the university.

Witnesses told THSDAY "at least" 13 persons were killed and several others sustained injuries in the attacks.

An official of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) put the number of the dead at "no fewer than 17".

University authorities put the figure at seven, while the names of the professors were given as Jerome Ayodole (Department of Chemistry) and Andrew Leo Ogbonyomi (Library Science).

Musical instruments and half-eaten meals were seen at the site of one of the services after the attacks.

Witnesses said the attackers arrived in a car and two motorcycles, opening fire and throwing homemade bombs, causing a stampede. Worshipers were then gunned down as they sought to flee.

"They first attacked the open-air service outside the faculty of medicine," one witness said. "They threw in explosives and fired shots, causing a stampede among worshippers. They now pursued them, shooting them with guns... They also attacked another service at the sporting complex."

A witness, who said he was at the sporting complex at the time of the attack, reported hearing gunshots outside while they were praying.

"Then there was pandemonium," he said, adding that he later saw two men outside shooting indiscriminately.

AFP reported that a crowd of people later gathered at a Kano hospital waiting to hear news about friends or family.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, although the attack was similar to others carried out by Boko Haram.

Immediately after yesterday's attack, soldiers cordoned off the campus, denying emergency agencies access to the blast scenes to administer first-aid treatment on the wounded.

Journalists were also denied access to the campus.

It was the same story at the Mallam Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital and Murtala Muhammed Specialist Hospital where the victims were taken.

BUK spokesman, Mustapha Zahardeen, told THSDAY: "Yes, I can officially confirm to you that seven persons were killed by the blast and scores of people sustained injuries."

Spokesman of the Joint Military Task Force (JTF), Lieutenant Iredochi, said military operatives had been deployed in the area to restore order, but declined to give details of the causality figures.

BOKO HARAM Count'd from 11

Over 180 persons were killed in attacks on the city on January 20. Kwankwaso said the state and federal governments would continue to work hard to ensure that peace and harmony prevailed among residents of the state.

He also said the state government had made arrangements with public and private hospitals in the state to ensure that victims of such incident were treated and that the government would foot the medical bills.

BUK's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Yalzuwa Bello, who conducted the governor round, explained that some of the worshippers were attacked in an indoor sports hall at the old campus of the university, which they use temporarily as their place of worship.

Bello added that the second group of worshippers was attacked while conducting their service in an open space outside the Dandani Abdulkadir Theatre, which they hitherto used, but which is currently undergoing renovation.

The Jere incident led to the death of the pastor and two worshippers.

It was gathered that the members of the Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN) had gathered in the evening to conduct the Holy Communion service in a town that is under the state of emergency.

Witnesses said they had gone halfway through the service before some gunmen believed to be members of Boko Haram brought their message of doom.

The witnesses said they came in their trademark car, Volkswagen Golf, dressed in flowing gowns and, after their routine shout of "Allah akbar", went into the church and headed straight for the altar and shot the ministering pastor whose name was given as Rev. Albert Nuga.

Though many of the worshippers took to their heels, the sect members were not done until they killed two other persons at the

church.

After that, they shot sporadically into the air and went the way they came without any form of restraint.

Spokesman of the Police, ASP Samuel Tizhe, confirmed the killings.

Meanwhile, the Guardian of London also reported that documents found in the house where bin Laden was killed a year ago showed a close working relationship between top al-Qaeda leaders and Mullah Omar, the overall commander of the Taliban.

Including frequent discussions of joint operations against Nato forces in Afghanistan, the Afghan government and targets in Pakistan.

The communications show a three-way conversation between bin Laden, his then deputy Ayman Zawahiri and Omar, who is believed to have been in Pakistan since fleeing Afghanistan after the collapse of his regime in 2001.

They indicate a "very considerable degree of ideological convergence", a Washington-based source familiar with the documents told the Guardian.

This would undermine hopes of a negotiated peace in Afghanistan, where the key debate among analysts and policymakers is whether the Taliban - seen by many as following an Afghan nationalist agenda - might once again offer a safe haven to al-Qaeda or like-minded militants, or whether they can be persuaded to renounce terrorism.

One possibility, experts said, is that although Omar built a strong relationship with bin Laden and Zawahiri, other senior Taliban commanders see close alliance or co-operation with al-Qaeda as deeply problematic.

Both David Cameron and US secretary of state Hillary Clinton have said that some kind of political settlement involving the Taliban is key to the stability of Afghanistan once most western troops have withdrawn by 2014.

Some communications in the documents date back several years but others are said to be from only weeks before the raid on May 2 last year in which bin Laden died.

"Questions and issues come up. They don't see eye to eye on everything but it's clear they understand they have an interest in co-operating on attacks against Nato, Afghan government and Pakistan targets," the source said. "Of those engaged in the conversation, two (Zawahiri and Omar) are still alive today and there is no reason to believe that either has substantially changed his views in the last year."

Zawahiri became leader of al-Qaeda following bin Laden's death.

Other papers in the haul are now likely to be declassified. They include memos apparently dictated by bin Laden urging followers to avoid indiscriminate attacks which kill Muslims and pondering a rebranding of al-Qaeda under a new name.

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Nigeria Nig Pse (N149/00)	
Laces	Volume : 413,252 million shares
	Value : N3,199 billion
	Deals : 4,715
	Weekly Market Activity 17/04/12
	Details on pg. 16

Fashola: We Can't Be Stampeded into Paying Minimum Wage

Lagos State Governor Babatunde Fashola has said he cannot be stampeded into paying a national minimum wage he did not participate in negotiating and for which the fund to pay is not provided.

By Nseobong Okon-Ekong, Gboyege Akinsanni in Lagos and Saka Ibrahim in Minna Kebbi

Fashola, who made the declaration at the Lagos State Stadium, Onikan venue of this year's celebration of Workers' Day yesterday, referred to item 34 of the Exclusive Legislative List of the 1999 Constitution that gives the Federal Government the power to legis-

late on minimum wage, saying the central government's power ends with fixing of the wage. He argued that states should be left to decide what they could afford to pay over the minimum wage to any cadre of workers. "We have complied with the minimum wage since January

2011 long before it was signed into law. We should be left to decide what more we can afford to pay over the minimum to any cadre of worker," he said. Quoting copiously from the speech he delivered at May Day 2011, Fashola said it was unfortunate that not much had

changed to review his stance that, "without sound economic policies and aggressive response to some of the problems, the salary increase that followed the implementation of the Belgor Commission may soon amount to no more than a victory at a battle and loss at war for organised labour".

AMCON to Sell Rescued Banks in 2014... Pg. 6

Continued on Pg. 6

Weather Report: Abuja: Sunny Temp: 20-36°C • Enugu: Cloudy, sunny Temp: 24-34°C • Kano: Sunny Temp: 17-37°C • Lagos: Cloudy Temp: 24-31°C • PH: Cloudy Temp: 21-29°C

THIS DAY

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JTF Raids Bomb Factory, Kills BUK Terror Suspect

Boko Haram threatens more media houses, releases live video on THISDAY attacks

From Ibrahim Shuaibu in Kano with agency report

The suspected mastermind of the attacks on churches during their services at the Bayero University Kano (BUK) was killed yesterday in a raid by the Joint military Task Force (JTF).

The task force launched an operation on a suspected bomb factory of Boko Haram members at Bubugaje area of Shuanda in Kumbotso Local Government Area of Kano State.

Sunday's deadly attacks led to the death of an estimated 35 persons, including two professors.

Also yesterday, Boko Haram posted on Youtube a video of the April 26 attack on THISDAY office in Abuja which led to the death of five persons.

The video showed an SUV drive into the compound and then exploded.

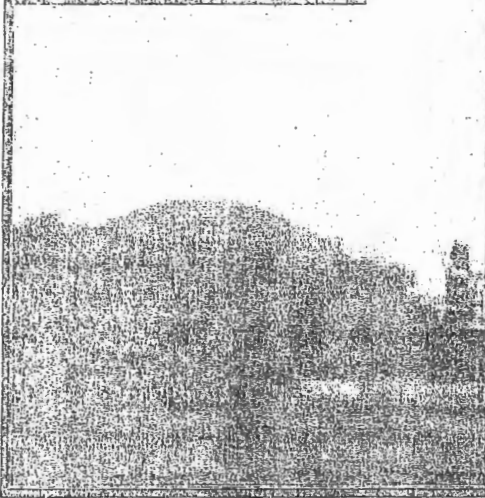
The sect threatened to attack more media houses, as well as Nigerian offices of foreign radio stations.

The Commander of 3rd Brigade of the Nigeria Army, Kano, Brigadier General Ilyasu Abba, told reporters while conducting them round

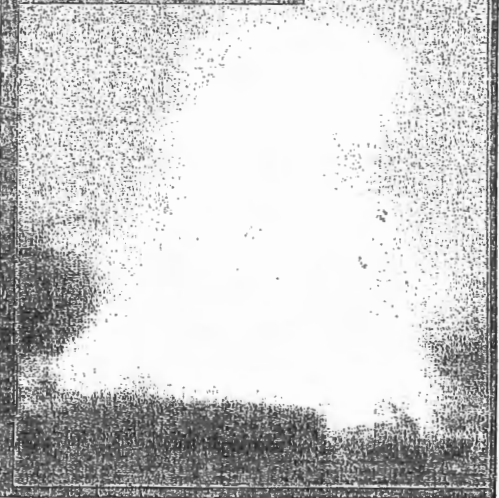
Moment of Terror...

Still images from the video posted on Youtube by Boko Haram on the April 26 attacks on THISDAY office in Abuja.

Just Before the Attack...



Bomb Goes Off...



Continued on Pg. 6

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Former Minister of Defence, Lt-Gen. Theophilus Danjuma (rd), has said Nigeria is on fire and called for a halt to what he described as "somalianisation" of the country.

Nigeria is on Fire, Says Danjuma

• Abdullahi: 1914 amalgamation of North, South a grave mistake

From Chika Okeahiala and Paul Obi in Abuja

of Nigeria is taking place right now.

"We have to sit down and face the truth, get to the root of our problem and find a solution to this problem. Those of us who call ourselves Northerners, our house is on fire. Let us not deceive ourselves, let's look at ourselves, face ourselves and tell ourselves the truth and find solution to our problem."

On the governors, he said: "The chief security officer of every state in Nigeria is the governor, where are our Northern governors? Where are they? Right now, Borno is a failed state, Jigawa is also a failed state. Kano is threatening to be a failed state. Kano of all places, Kano, where are we going? Where on earth are we going?"

"You hear talks of multi-million naira houses around government houses. What about the citizens? We have to search our minds and find solution to this problem."

Nigeria's former Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Aliji Mutama Sule, in his comment, preached peace and

love for one another.

According to him, "All the religions of God teach us the same thing, the moral values told by all the religions of God are the same thing; peace with your God, peace of the mind, peace of the fellow man is the teaching of Christianity, the word Islam means peace. Love your neighbour as thyself is another teaching. Be your brother's keeper is common to both religions."

In his paper titled "Nigeria 1914 to date - A Chequered Journey So Far", Abdullahi faulted the amalgamation of Nigeria by Lugard, describing it as the greatest mistake that had befallen Nigeria.

He urged leaders to take a quick resolution to correct the mistakes created by the amalgamation, as "delay would be late and dangerous".

He cited the case of India where the British committed a similar mistake, but the country's example, according to him, had been resolved through the creation of the states of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

In similar cases, he urged Nigeria to take a clue from what is happening in the United

Kingdom, where Northern Ireland and Scotland are fighting separation as sovereign nations, while drawing example from the recent development in Sudan, where the country had divided into the Sudan and Southern Sudan.

Abdullahi said the three examples are all British colonies and that the earlier a decision was taken on the continued status of Nigeria, the better.

According to the former vice-chancellor, "things are more likely to become complex in the future. Until the correct things are done, we cannot ignore these facts or we continue to pretend as our leaders that this is a passing phase. The question of a likely disintegration is not a distant future."

He also faulted the growth rate in the country, stating that "though Nigeria is growing at the rate of seven per cent per year, but it does not reflect the actuality on ground as over 100 million Nigerians still live below \$1 per day, with a life expectancy going down at less than 48 years."

In his speech, former Senate

President Ken Nnamani called for the prosecution of Nigerians behind the third term agenda, saying, "If we don't prosecute those behind the shameful act of the third term, some people will not have the guts to be denying their role."

He said some people should be languishing in jail for mismanaging the sovereign wealth of Nigerians.

According to him, "some of our leaders tell lies without any pinch of shame."

He also commended the House of Representatives for the steps taken in the probe of the oil subsidy, saying those found culpable should not be allowed to go unpunished.

In his comment, the former minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Lt-Gen. Jeremiah Useni (rd), blamed the growing insecurity in the North on the Northern governors, asking, "What are they doing with the money they are collecting. How can we say that we don't know who the members of the Boko

Haram are? They are attacking churches and mosques and killing people."

Former governor of Lagos State Bola Tinubu alleged that the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is behind the problems of the country.

He cited the case of the suspension of the President of the Court of Appeal, Justice Ayo Salami, without the approval of the Senate. This, he said, had put fear into other justices of the Court of Appeal.

According to him, "the suspension of Justice Salami has put fear into other judges as they may not have the strength of justice to denounce the PDP or give remarkable judgment because of the fear of what happened to Salami."

The occasion was also attended by former Head of State, Maj-Gen Muhammadu Buhari (rd); former governor of Bauchi State, Adamu Maza; Ahmed Joda; former Minister of Communication, Zango Sani Daura; Adamu Fika and Isiyaku Ibrahim.

AMCON to Sell Rescued Banks in 2014

The sale of the three nationalised banks - Keystone Bank Limited, Mainstreet Bank Limited and Enterprise Bank Limited - will be done in two years' time, the Managing Director of Asset Management Corporation of Nigerian (AMCON), Mr. Mustapha Chike-Obi, has said.

By Goddy Egebe

He had attributed the high interest shown by investors to the fact that the banks had been fully recapitalised and had just one shareholder, which is AMCON.

Despite the high interest shown by investors to acquire the banks, Chike-Obi said AMCON was not in a haste to sell the banks.

According to him, the sale of the banks required due diligence on the investors to ensure that they ascertain the sources of their funds, adding that series of approvals were equally involved.

He explained that failure to follow due process would be counterproductive and might attract complaints from the public.

After its nationalisation of the rescued banks, AMCON which was believed to be the biggest individual shareholder in the banks with 14 per cent holding in the defunct Mainstreet Bank; 45 per cent stake in Keystone and 70 per cent in Enterprise Bank, became the sole owner of the banks.

"We will have to get all needed approvals from CBN and any other relevant institutions. If hurriedly we sell the banks, the public will shout and accuse us of not following due process," Chike-Obi stated.

He explained that the banks were also efficiently managed in line with the corporate governance standards, stressing that the sale of the banks did not pose any challenge.

After its nationalisation of the rescued banks, AMCON which was believed to be the biggest individual shareholder in the banks with 14 per cent holding in the defunct Mainstreet Bank; 45 per cent stake in Keystone and 70 per cent in Enterprise Bank, became the sole owner of the banks.

BOMB FACTORY

Could've from P1

included 35 knives, 35 improvised explosive devices (IEDs), two laptops, five tyre cans, and a bank letter for N150,000.

Others were five high explosives, one AK47, 485 rounds of 7.62 mm special, nine rounds of 5.56mm and seven SDV cards and modems.

He urged members of the public to continue to cooperate with security operatives in order to rid the state of terrorists.

Abbah said the army would also continue to do its best in order to ensure that peace return to the state.

It was learnt that one of the women who claimed to be from Cameroon was also identified by the JTF among the women rescued from one of the operations in Kano metropolis and the house was later demolished by a bulldozer.

The raid came barely 24 hours after the police anti-bomb squad defused a bomb planted close to the mosque at the new site of BUK.

Meanwhile, in the YouTube video, the Boko Haram spokesman said the second group of media houses to be attacked are Punch, Daily Sun, Vanguard, Guardian, Nation, Tribune, and National Accord.

He also listed VOA Hausa radio as well as Leadership, Daily Trust, Peoples Daily and Radio France International.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT...



Some of the weapons recovered from a suspected Boko Haram hideout in Kano...yesterday

FASHOLA

Could've from P1

parts of its power reform plan. He mentioned the capacity of state governments, which he observed, apparently "lacks the institutional strength, human resource or the financial capacity to set up and operate distributions companies".

He added that power distribution "is an area where the private sector has demonstrated undoubted capacity and experience both locally and internationally. So, the success of any power distribution company will depend on the ability of states to partner the private sector".

The May Day celebration in the state, which was jointly organised by the state chapters of the NLC and Trade Union Congress (TUC) had the theme, "Right to Work, Food and Education: Panacea to insecurity," was attended by affiliates of both organisations and featured a march past by the various unions.

Lagos State Chairman of the NLC, Mr. Idowu Adedokun, said every society faces the fundamental challenge of creating a political, economic and social system that promotes peace, human welfare and the sustainability of the environment on which life depends.

The ceremony was witnessed

GIVING A HINT ON A NEW REVENUE

formula being canvassed by the Nigerian Governors' Forum (NGF), Fashola said: "We must be bold and audacious to demand a reform of our current federal structure with even greater vigour than was used to secure the wage increase."

According to him, "the reality is that not all the states will be able to pay the new wage structure unless there is an urgent amendment of the country's revenue allocation formula that gives more money to the states and local governments."

"I have been privileged to serve as the chairman of a committee of the NGF set up to propose an amendment of the revenue allocation formula with the governors of Adamawa, Enugu, Niger, Rivers and Sokoto States as members. We have concluded our deliberations and produced a report proposing an amendment of the revenue allocation formula such that the Federal Government of Nigeria now gets 35 per cent; states, 42 per cent; and local governments, 23 per cent."

The governor also expressed pessimism over the Federal Government's recent decision to allow states distribute power, saying the resolve, as it stands, might not yield meaningful outcome,

CITING CONSTITUTIONAL BOTTLENECKS

and death of manpower as constraints. He specifically cited article 14 (b) of the concurrent legislative list in the 1999 Constitution as a major constraint, which he said, might undermine the Federal Government's intent to allow states distribute power.

The article states thus: "A House of Assembly may make laws for the State with respect to the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity to areas not covered by a national grid system within that state."

He sought clarification on whether the public was aware of the areas not covered by the national grid in a gazette or such other reliable public document and whether those types of areas would be financially viable to attract private investments for life states to partner?

He therefore observed that the euphoria generated by the Federal Government's decision will soon evaporate unless immediate and positive action is taken to give expression to that intent.

Fashola gave other reasons, which according to him, might incapacitate state governments to distribute power as the Federal Government recently revealed as

BY SENATOR REMI TINUBU, MR. FEMI FALANA, HEAD OF SERVICE, AND LAGOS STATE, MR. ADESEGUN OGUNLEWE, AMONG OTHER DIGNITARIES.

Meanwhile, the Kebbi State NLC Chairman, Comrade Sadiq Sambo Kajoje, in his May Day speech said: "As you are all aware, the issue of minimum wage in the state has not been concluded due to the situation we find ourselves on the issue."

"Permit me at this juncture to express the congress' dismay on the way and manner the state government is handling the issue with particular reference to the recent withdrawal of the earlier approval given on the implementation of the minimum wage."

He said the other demands of the NLC included payment of annual increment for three years to the affected categories of workers; update of records of National Housing Fund (NHF) deduction by the Ministry of Finance to enable workers have access to their individual accounts and continuation of car loan disbursement in the state and extension of same gesture to workers in the local government services and primary school teachers; and provision of befitting secretary for the congress, among others.

CBN: NNPC Didn't Engage in 'Double Deductions'

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has said it is not true that the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) received subsidy payments from two sources as claimed by the House of Representatives' Ad Hoc Committee on Monitoring Fuel Subsidy Regime in its

SUBSIDY PROBE

From Omwuka Nzeshe in Abuja

report of the probe of the subsidy regime between 2009 and 2011.

The ad hoc committee said in the report that: "The NNPC

'might have been' withdrawing subsidy claims from two different points and should refund the excess to the Federation Account within 90 days."

In a letter addressed to the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, Hon. Farouk Lawan, yesterday the CBN denied that it ever paid any money to the NNPC in respect

of subsidy claims.

The letter, which was marked BPS/DIR/GEN/DOL/01/028 and dated April 27, 2012, was a response by the apex bank to some of the observations and recommendations contained in the subsidy report.

"There was no time CBN paid any money to NNPC in respect of subsidy claim. It is

pertinent to note that NNPC started advising CBN of subsidy deductions from October 2009 after the states had complained at various Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) meetings of lack of transparency in the management of the subsidy regime," the CBN wrote.

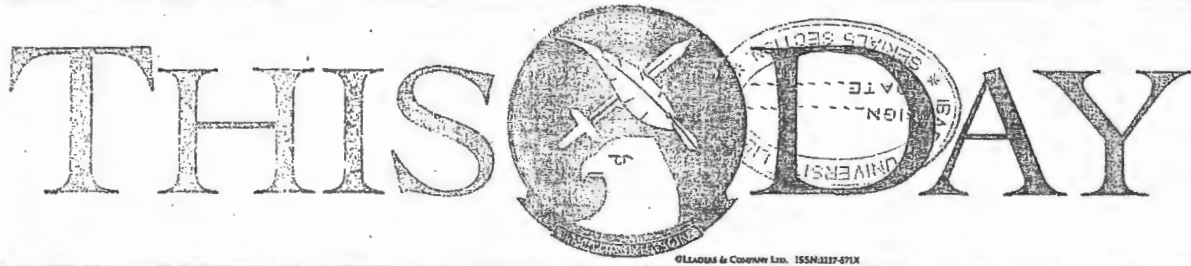
Deputy

Governor

(Operations) of the CBN. Mr. Tunde Lemo, who signed the letter, recalled that the apex bank had in its submission to the committee on January 25, 2012 given a figure of N1.73 trillion as the amount of funds paid out to marketers as subsidy claims as at December 2011.

Continued on Pg. 6

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2012, VOL. 12, NO. 162,182, PRICE: N150 WWW.BHIS/NEWS



WEATHER: ABUJA: Sunny Temp: 20-34°C ENUGU: Cloudy, sunny Temp: 24-34°C ILAGOS: Sunny Temp: 19-36°C LAGOS: Cloudy Temp: 24-31°C PH: Cloudy Temp: 21-29°C

SSS Arrests Suspected Boko Haram Bomb Manufacturer

IG orders protection of media houses • Enough is enough, CAN warns

The State Security Service (SSS) has arrested a man who allegedly supplies explosives to Boko Haram, which has stepped up its attacks in the last one week.

Ayuba Usman was arrested on Tuesday at his shop in a market in Kano following

From Yemi Akinsuyi, Paul Obi in Abuja and Ibrahim Shuaibu in Kano with agency report

information from suspected Boko Haram members arrested in raids, the SSS Director in the state, Mr. Nelson Eteng, told reporters yesterday.

"Based on statements by

high profile suspects... Ayuba Usman has been providing combustible chemicals used in the manufacture of IEDs (improvised explosive devices) for attacks on innocent people in the city," Eteng said. "The suspect is found to be linked with extremist elements."

The SSS displayed 35 drums of chemicals of 240 litres each and a dozen bags of combustible items said to have been recovered during the raid on the suspect's shop.

According to Eteng, the suspect was apprehended at one of the markets in Dala Local Government Area of the state.

"The chemicals are controlled. But when we find individuals selling such materials to individuals who turn to harm innocent people, the security will be concerned and that is why we are concerned," he said.

He said the SSS operatives in the state would go deeper

into the case in order to know their network with a view to tracking down their accomplices, adding that investigation would continue until the perpetrators were arrested and punished.

Eteng said: "We are closing on very many suspects who are on the run, and the intelligence networking is working closely to get them very soon."

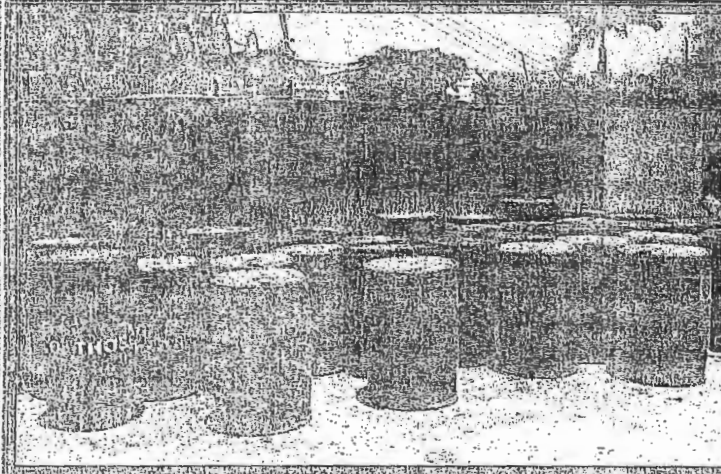
He said the people of Kano are so tired of what is happening and are helping with information.

Last Sunday, gunmen attacked two church services at Bayero University Kano (BUK), throwing bombs and opening fire on worshippers as they sought to flee, leaving dozens dead.

A high-calibre time bomb was also discovered at another of the university's campuses in Kano and defused by a bomb squad the following day.

Dozens of IEDs were recovered on Tuesday in a military raid on an alleged Boko Haram hideout in the city which left one suspected militant dead.

Continued on Pg. 15



The bomb-making chemicals (left) and the suspect, Ayuba Usman.

'How Banks Destroyed the Stock Market'

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) yesterday said the recent downturn witnessed in the Nigerian capital market was fuelled by sharp practices by some commercial banks in the country.

Deputy Governor, Financial System Stability of CBN, Mr.

HOUSE PROBE

From Omwuka Nzeshe in Abuja

Kingsley Moghalu, said this while appearing before the House of Representatives Ad Hoc Committee on the Capital

Market investigating the collapse of the sector.

Moghalu said the unhealthy practices of some of the banks in the country were largely responsible for the problems in the stock market as they manipulated their share prices using depositors' money.

He added that many of the banks were also giving out margin loans in the capital market and other sectors without due process, a situation, he said, led to huge portfolio of non-performing loans.

The apex bank deputy governor said that while the global

meltdown sent shock waves across various economies, which had led to the withdrawal of about \$15 billion worth of foreign investments from the stock market, the situation was worsened by the insider deals involving the banks which

Continued on Pg. 6

TSI

Top Gainers	GUARANTY +N0.90K (N16.82)+4.9%
	CADDURY +N0.75K (N15.87)+4.9%
	ZENITHBANK +N0.70K (N14.82)+4.9%
	ACCESS +N0.59K (N13.64)+5.7%
	FIRSTBANK +N0.49K (N10.47)+4.7%
Top Losers	GOLDINSURE -N0.0K (N0.57)-5%
	CCNN -N0.24K (N4.81)-4.7%
	MAYBAKER -N0.09K (N1.98)-4.5%
	CONTINURE -N0.0K (N3.72)-4.0%
	JAPULUIL -N0.0K (N3.54)-3.5%
FFPE	Nestle Nig Plc (N419.00)
Index	Volume: 493.26 million shares
	Value: N4.87 billion
	Deals: 4,146
	*As at 11:54am GMT/12
	Details on pg. 42

Fulani Attacks: Beroms Flee Villages to Safety

We have lost our homes and everything in them. Our sons and daughters have been slain; our husbands can no longer visit their farms; we are in hunger and distress. We would rather flee this village than die here either by the sword of the Fulani herdsmen or in hunger."

This was the lamentation of Berom women, who have lost virtually all they had to Fulani persistent attacks, as they flee Kak village in Riyom Local Government Area of Plateau State, after a recent attack that claimed the lives of over 10 persons.

Meanwhile, the member representing Riyom constituency in the state House of Assembly, Hon. Daniel Dem, and a team of journalists, who had gone to the affected villages for on-the-spot assessment narrowly escaped death at Kak village when a

Lawmaker, journalists escape attack

From Seriki Aduwai in Jos

group of armed Fulani herdsmen attacked the village.

Riyom Local Government has been under Fulani attack in the last three weeks with the recent one being on Monday night when over 10 persons were slain and scores of houses torched. Their representative in the state House of Assembly had therefore led a team of journalists from Jos, the state headquarters, to assess situation.

The lawmaker and the journalists were in the village at about 10:30am yesterday interviewing victims and cross-checking facts with Nigeria Red Cross members when the armed Fulani herdsmen struck again. They hid behind newly rocks and fired gun shots sporadically into the village.

Dem and the journalists had to abandon their vehicles and ran into the bush to take cover, after which they immediately escaped from the village.

The villagers, who had earlier gathered their luggage to flee the village, were not left behind. The villagers had returned to the village from their displaced camps to evacuate their food stuff and domestic animals when the lawmaker and journalists visited.

Among the journalists who escaped death were Yusufu Aminu of The Nation, Yemi Kosoko of Channels Television, Hilary Kasim of Nigeria Standard, Samson Omale of Silverbird Television, and their counterparts from the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) and the state Radio and Television Corporation (PRTC).

Dem, who after escaping to safety and could not hold back tears, said: "I have witnessed it live. I thought it was a joke, I never knew this is what my people have been passing through. I had a close shave with death, you newsmen have seen it yourselves that the victims are not just telling lies about their predicament.

"I'm happy no journalist is hurt, but my people are in danger. There is no security to help them out. Government knows about

the problem, security agents know of the attacks, but no one is responding to my distress call.

"I mean the Federal Government imposed a state of emergency on this council yet all these things are still happening. The worst the government has done is to withhold the monthly allocation of this local government, such that there is no fund to handle the security challenges."

"Federal Government has no reason holding monthly allocation of councils under state of emergency. The idea is compounding their problems; it is

high time these withheld allocations were released or they should send special funds for emergency administration," he added.

So far, the Fulani have attacked over 10 Berom villages in the last three weeks, with attendant loss of lives. The villages include Taboss, Bangai, Sopp, Angwa Weren, Dajol, Sho, Dung, Bashtu, Fan, Rwa and Gwom.

Residents of the attacked villages have fled to other villages that may also be victims in the near future.

Pension Scam: Madubuike Denies Receiving N30bn Bank Transfers

By Omololu Ogunmade

the organisation.

He was quoted by the media on April 18, 2012 to have confirmed during a public hearing on the matter by the Senate that the said sum was transferred into his account.

According to Madubuike's counsel, Perry Okoro, of Saagwe & Co., only N5476 million was erroneously paid into their client's account, explaining that when he discovered the error, he (Madubuike) quickly drew the attention of his boss, John Yusuf, to the payment, adding that Yusuf accordingly directed him to withdraw the money and simultaneously returned it to the office.

Okoro, who said his client complied with the instruction and handed over the money to Yusuf in the presence of some staff members of the Police Pension Office, added that this claim of his client had been confirmed by KPMG (a firm of reputable auditors) who audited the pension's account during

the period.

Okoro said: "To put the record straight, our client informed us that it is true that N5.476 million was erroneously paid into his account and when he discovered, he drew the attention of his boss, one Mr. John Yusuf, an assistant director (accounts) to the said payment and he directed that he should withdraw the money and return same to the office."

"Our client complied with this directive and handed over the money to him in the presence of some staff of the Police Pension Office. This information, he further informed us, has been verified and found as truth by KPMG (a firm of reputable auditors) who audited the Police Pension Office's account during the period under investigations."

Further, he said: "At no time did our client confirm the transfer of N30 billion into his account between 2007 and 2011. You may further wish to note that since the said account was opened, the total credit transactions on the said account is below N40 million."

STOCK MARKET Can't from P1

resulted in a huge portfolio of non-performing loans.

He said that the CBN had to step into the eight rescued banks because they were on the verge of collapse as the non-performing loans (NPLs) weighed them down.

Moghalu also said the ratio of non-performing loans were as follows: BankPHB (40.86 per cent); Oceanic Bank (44.35 per cent); Afribank (47 per cent); FinBank (47.5 per cent); Intercontinental Bank (48 per cent); ETB (57 per cent); Wema Bank (77.6 per cent); and Spring Bank (85 per cent).

These NPLs, Moghalu said, came by way of insider abuse and flagrant disregard of best practices.

He disclosed that many of the commercial banks manipulated their shares during the process of recapitalisation using a process known as share buy-back.

The former Afribank (now Mainstreet Bank), Moghalu said, advanced credit to three stock brokerage firms whom they commissioned to buy back Afribank shares in the market in the names of 1,258 fictitious subscribers.

According to him, in August 2006, FinBank similarly instructed four stockbrokers to buy back 2.8 billion units of its own shares using depositors' funds.

He acknowledged that the CBN or regulators in the market failed in their regulatory functions as an institution by not detecting the infractions early

enough, but said the banks that went into the shady deals did so out of the greed of their managements at that time.

Moghalu declared that the eight banks would have gone down with depositors' funds worth about N3 trillion as well as about 50,000 jobs but for the prompt intervention of the CBN which injected N680 billion into them.

He ruled out insinuations that the bank consolidation programme and the quest by the various banks to increase their share capital to N25 billion was responsible for their over-exposure to the stock market and the subsequent problems.

He said the banking sector would have been in a worse shape but for the consolidation programme executed by the CBN.

He however said going forward, the CBN, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and other regulators had strengthened their regulatory frameworks and collaboration to avoid a repeat of insiders' abuse.

On the vexed issue of nationalisation of three banks by the CBN, NDIC and AMCON, Moghalu said no bank was nationalised as a result of insider abuse but that the regulators read the handwriting on the wall and established bridge banks in accordance with the laws.

He reiterated the position of the CBN that the shareholders of the three banks lost their investments following the failure of the banks to recapitalise within the stipulated period.

STARTER PACK...



"L-R: Ogun State governor, Senator Ibianke Amosun; his wife, Ohunso, presenting empowerment materials to one of the beneficiaries of "Uplifting the Unemployed" empowerment programme, Okanile Omotosho, in Abeokuta... yesterday

BOKO HARAM Can't from P1

Meanwhile, police authorities yesterday renounced to the threat by Boko Haram to attack more media houses by beefing up security around them.

Acting Inspector General of Police (IG) Mohammed Abubakar said the force was aware of the threat and that he had directed commissioners of police across the country to tighten security.

He advised media houses to contact commissioners of police in their states if their outfit is vulnerable.

The IG however reiterated that the police and other security agencies were working hard to overcome the security challenges and blamed their under-performance on underfunding, lack of training and ill equipment.

But the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) yesterday in Abuja issued a "final warning" to the Federal Government that any failure on the part of government to halt the incessant attacks by the Boko Haram would leave the body with no choice than to defend its members.

Addressing a press conference at the Ecumenical Centre, Abuja, CAN President, Pastor Ayodeji Osofisan, said the body's position was based on the inability of Boko Haram sponsors

to be reasonable.

"You will recall in our last press conference, we told the nation that the bombings and killings of innocent Nigerians may be termed senseless but that is not without sense for those sponsoring the acts. Their plan is to instil fear with the subsequent aim of eradicating religious freedom, democratic liberties with the church and Christianity as its primary target," he said.

Orisejafor explained that the Nigerian nation and the global community have been witnesses to the step-by-step escalation of violence against innocent citizens with the Christians and the church suffering the greatest loss.

The association stated that given the continuous lurch of attacks by Boko Haram, it is immaterial to discuss the source.

"At this point in the unfolding insecurity challenges, it has become relevant whether the root cause is political, religious, ethnic or ideological. The fundamental issues are that, the stimulation, killings, bombings and wanton destruction of lives and property must stop immediately," CAN maintained.

Speaking on the next line of action, CAN president said

though, "I am aware that the greater part of the overall design is to instil fear in the populace, I will now make a final call to the Nigerian government to use all resources available to it to clearly define and neutralise the problem as other nations have done."

The Youth Wing of the

CBN Can't from P1

This figure, the bank said, comprised direct deductions and Sovereign Debt Notes (SDNs) issued by the Petroleum Products Pricing and Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) to other marketers as at December 2011.

The CBN further said that some of the payments received by the NNPC, which the committee had raised questions about, were credits due to the NNPC in respect of its domestic crude allocations.

"Direct deductions by the NNPC as per CBN records between October 2009 and December 2011 show a total figure of N844, 944,471,72k before transfers to the Federation Account were made. CBN does not make any payment to the NNPC on fuel subsidy. The corporation deducts at source before remitting to the Federation Account," the letter said.

On the allegation in the

Christian Association of Nigeria (YOWCAN) has called for an immediate overhaul of all security agencies.

YOWCAN said since the spate of bombings in the country is difficult for them to stop, there was need for immediate shake-up in the nations' security system.

CBN Can't from P1

report that both the CBN and the Federal Ministry of Finance instructed the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) not to ask for documents on premium motor spirit (PMS) imported by the NNPC, the CBN said the allegation was an interpretation given to a circular issued by the Trade and Exchange Department (TED) to the NCS.

The apex bank said rather than the outright withdrawal of the circular, the issuing authority should review it if necessary.

The House Ad Hoc Committee had in the report recommended that the NNPC should pay the NCS N46 billion as outstanding duties on fuel imports.

The CBN, however, declined comment on the issue of extra-budgetary spending and insisted that such matter fell within the purview of the NNPC and the fiscal authorities.

House: We've Constitutional Powers to Summon Jonathan

Onuruka Itzashi in Abuja

The House of Representatives yesterday justified its decision to summon President Goodluck Jonathan and service chiefs in the wake of renewed terror attacks in Yobe and Kaduna States. Reacting to criticism over

its Tuesday's summons of the president to brief the House on his administration's efforts to tackle insecurity, the House stated that Section 89(1)(c) of the 1999 Constitution confers on it the powers to summon anyone, including the president on any matter which is within the purview of the National

Assembly.

Section 89(1)(c) of the 1999 Constitution reads: "For the purposes of any investigation under Section 88 of this Constitution and subject to the provisions thereof, the Senate or the House of Representatives or a committee appointed in accordance with Section 62 of

this Constitution shall have power to summon any person in Nigeria to give evidence at any place or produce any document or other thing in his possession or under his control, and examine him as a witness and require him to produce any document or other thing in his possession

or under his control, subject to all just exceptions."

Sub-section 1(d) goes to provide that in the event a person fails to appear, the Senate or House of Representatives shall "issue a warrant to compel the attendance of any person who, after having been summoned to attend, fails, refuses or neglects

to do so and does not excuse such failure, refusal or neglect to the satisfaction of the House or the committee in question..."

Chairman, House Committee on Media and Public Affairs, Hon. Zakari Mohammed, said the invitation to the president

Continued on page 7

THIS DAY

Friday 22 June, 2012
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TODAY'S WEATHER: ABUJA 20-36°C MAIDUGURI 28-38°C ENUGU 24-35°C KANO 18-37°C LAGOS 24-31°C PORT HARCOURT 22-29°C

United States Puts Three Boko Haram Leaders on Terror List

Tokunbo Adedaja in New York and Muhammad Bello in Abuja

The United States yesterday labelled the acclaimed leader of Boko Haram, Abubakar Shekau, and two others - Abubakar Adam Kambar and Khalid al-Barnawi - global terrorists as part of its efforts to stem the tide of terrorism in Nigeria. The militant religious sect was, however, not designated a Foreign Terrorist Organisation

(FTO), as canvassed by some sections of the US government. A statement yesterday by the State Department said the designation under Executive Order 13224, "blocks all of Shekau's, Kambar's and al-Barnawi's property interests subject to US jurisdiction and prohibits US persons from engaging in transactions with or for the benefit of these individuals". Until the designation, only Shekau's name was known to the Nigerian public, as other

operatives of the sect had used aliases to conceal their identities. Over 1,500 people have been killed by Boko Haram since 2009 when it began its bloody campaign against Western education in Nigeria and its bid for the Islamisation of the country. The US statement described Shekau as the most visible leader of the militant group under whose leadership Boko

Continued on page 7



VILLAGE HEADMASTER PASSES ON
Ambassador Olusegun Olusola died yesterday (See story on page 3)

Another Christmas Day Bomber Arrested

Curfew in Damaturu, Kaduna relaxed

Myebuchi Ezigbo in Abuja, Ohn Shiklam in Kaduna and Michael Oluwabode in Damaturu

security agents yesterday recorded a breakthrough in their fight against terrorism with the arrest of Faleeb Barna, one of the alleged masterminds of the Christmas Day bombing of Theresa's Catholic Church in Macalla, Niger State last year. Barna was apprehended in Damaturu, the Yobe State capital.

His arrest occurred just as residents of Damaturu got some respite yesterday as the state Governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam, relaxed the lockdown on the state following the terrorist attacks by Boko Haram that had kept residents indoors since Monday. Gaidam, after the two-day imposition of a 24-hour curfew on the state capital, eased restriction on movements by relaxing the curfew from 10 am to 4 pm.

Continued on page 7

TOP GAINERS		NGN	NGN
ETERNIA	0.14	3.02	4.86
TOLUIST	0.21	4.53	4.86
CUDIX	0.06	1.32	4.76
CUSTOYHS	0.07	4.67	4.67
PAINTCOM	0.07	1.59	4.61
TOP LOSERS		NGN	NGN
UPDC	0.5	9.57	4.57
WAPIC	0.04	0.77	4.94
TRANSCORP	0.06	0.77	4.88
GTBANK	0.7	75	4.46
ACCESS	0.28	6.05	4.42

NPE Nestle Nigeria Plc: #425.00
Volume: 239,789 million shares
Value: N1,408 bn
Deals: 3,753
As at yesterday 21/06/12
See details on Page 44

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Farouk Lawan: I Will be Vindicated

Ornuwa Nzeishi in Abuja

Suspended Chairman of the House of Representatives Ad Hoc Committee on the Monitoring of Subsidy Regime, Hon. Farouk Lawan, waxed philosophical yesterday over his travails stemming from the \$620,000 bribery scandal rocking the lower chamber, but remained confident that he would be vindicated.

The beleaguered lawmaker, who was attending a plenary session of the House for the first time since the scandal became public, reaffirmed on the same day that the House justified its decision to sanction him for his involvement in the scandal and described his travail as a "trial from God".

He was optimistic that he would be vindicated at the end of

the day when investigations into the incident have been concluded.

Lawan was in police custody last Friday when the House, at an emergency session, suspended him as chairman of the interim fact finding probe panel and as chairman of the Committee on Education.

Lawan, who entered the House at 1 pm, went straight to his seat after exchanging handshakes and pleasantries with some of his colleagues.

He came into the chamber in the middle of a debate on a bill but appeared not to be disposed to contribute to the discourse, and spent barely 40 minutes before departing.

Addressing reporters who accosted him at the entrance to the chamber, Lawan said he nursed

no grudge against his colleagues over his suspension, adding that having served as a member of the House since 1999, he had come to appreciate that the institution is bigger than any individual.

According to him, the House took the right decision on the matter and he would have endorsed the same action if it were any other person at the centre of the crisis. He described his present travails as a trial from God but promised that he would overcome.

"I think it is important to note that I have been a member of the House of Representatives for the past 13 years. Of course, together with several other colleagues of mine, past and present, I have done so much to build the House of Representatives.

"The decision of the House

of Representatives is a collective decision and I have absolutely no problem with that decision," he said.

Lawan added that as far as the issue relating to his person was concerned, he believed that he would be ultimately vindicated. "I will be vindicated. I just urge Nigerians to continue to be patient, I have not spoken on the issue for strategic reasons; this trial is a trial from God and I believe in the end we shall prevail," Lawan said.

When pressed to disclose the whereabouts of the \$620,000 he collected from businessman, Mr. Femi Otedola, along with the clerk to the ad hoc committee, Mr. Borifake Ezeruwa, Lawan simply shook his head, an indication that he did not want to comment on

the matter.

Lawan had claimed in a statement shortly after the scandal broke that he wrote the Chairman, House Committee on Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes, Hon. Jagaba Adams Jagaba, informing the latter of attempts to bribe him and attached the money to the letter.

But Jagaba, in a June 19 letter to House Speaker, Hon. Aminu Tambuwal, denied receiving Lawan's letter or being in custody of the \$620,000.

Chairman of the House Committee on Media and Public Affairs, Hon. Zakari Mohammed, who briefed reporters shortly after the plenary, said the decisions taken by the House on Lawan were fair and consistent with parliamentary procedures and

precedence.

Mohammed recalled that the House took a similar position when the Chairman, House Committee on Capital Markets, Hon. Herman Hernebe, was accused of demanding N39 million as bribe from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

According to him, the suspension of any lawmaker whose integrity has been called in question is meant to dissociate the House from any wrongdoing and restore public confidence in the parliament.

Mohammed dismissed as laughable Otedola's description of the resolutions of the House as a celebration of corruption, declaring he (Otedola) was as guilty as Lawan in the bribery saga.

USAYED STATES PUTS THREE BOKO HARAM LEADERS ON TERROR LIST

Haram has claimed responsibility for numerous attacks in Northern Nigeria - its primary area of operation.

For al-Barnawi and Kambur, their designations were premised on their ties to Boko Haram and close links to al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb - a designated FTO.

The US government stated that the militant sect was credited with last year's attack on the United Nations building in Abuja that claimed at least 23 lives and wounded several people.

Boko Haram also claimed responsibility for the December 25, 2011 attack on St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Madalla, Niger State, which the US government said killed at least 25 people and the January 20, 2012 attack on Kano, which claimed more than 130 lives.

The statement said the designation of the trio as "Specially Designated Global Terrorists" demystified the US's resolve to diminish the capacity of Boko Haram to execute violent attacks.

Nigeria's ambassador to the US, Prof. Adebowale Adefuye, while reacting to the Boko Haram members' designation as global terrorists said he was "said but not surprised".

Adefuye, who said he was on his way to Capitol Hill for a meeting with US lawmakers on the issue when THESDAY called, said US officials had informed him of the development earlier and he had also informed Abuja about the possible designation of the affected individuals.

"I was informed in the past and we were told that it would

be announced at the appropriate time by the US government," Adefuye said.

He had held series of meetings with senior US officials at the State Department, White House and with the US National Security Council over the last few months to stave off the designation of Boko Haram as an FTO, because Nigeria believes its consequences far outweigh its benefits to the nation.

Adefuye said the issue also came up during the last high-level meeting between US and Nigerian officials in Washington, adding that arguments were put forward against designating the group so as not to further enhance its image among terrorist organisations.

Acknowledging the US government's assistance to Nigeria in tackling the nation's security challenges, Adefuye said both countries would continue to work closely for their mutual interests.

THESDAY gathered yesterday that Republicans in Congress were also considering mounting more pressure on President Barack Obama to go beyond labelling the trio as terrorists and designate Boko Haram an FTO.

But sources said the Republican lobby might not get the support of Democrats in the Congress, as it could project the Obama administration's policy towards violent militancy in Africa as weak.

Analysts believe that the designation of the trio, which was done by the State Department, in consultation with the Departments of Justice and Treasury, will move the militant

religious sect an inch closer to being designated an FTO.

Over the last few months, pressure was mounted on Secretary Hillary Clinton to designate Boko Haram an FTO. Last November, a 28-page report by the US House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence had outlined the threats posed to US homeland by the militant sect.

The report, titled, "Boko Haram: Emerging Threat to the US Homeland", which was jointly signed by chairman of the committee, Rep. Patrick Meahan, and a ranking member, Rep. Jackie Speier, examined the evolution of Boko Haram, its potential, goals and intent and its capability to commit acts of terrorism against US interests and US homeland.

It also focused on Nigerian counter-terrorism capability, current US diplomatic efforts and the future of US engagement and assistance options in countering the threats of the sect.

The report also warned that the US could not afford to miscalculate Boko Haram's intent and capability to strike the homeland, as its evolution had clearly illustrated that it was a group with fast growing ambitions.

It also charged US intelligence community to stay ahead of Boko Haram in an effort to thwart a potential attack against the country.

Boko Haram has also attracted the attention of academics and public policy commentators in the US. In May, 24 scholars in US wrote

a letter to Secretary Clinton, urging her not to designate Boko Haram an FTO.

In reaction to the US government's decision yesterday, Secretary General of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, Alhaji Lateef Adegbite, cautioned the US against designating Boko Haram a terrorist group.

He sounded the note of caution in Abuja when he led Muslim leaders to a meeting with Vice-President Namadi Sambo.

"How do they know those who are Boko Haram and those who are not? The implication will be very serious. They may see someone like me with my long beard and think I am Boko Haram, so the implication will be very serious.

"We are appealing to them to give Nigeria more time to dialogue with our people and we hope we will re-integrate them into our fold," Adegbite said.

Former US Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. John Campbell, on his part, said it was too early to assess what the designation of Shekau and the two other Boko Haram leaders as global terrorist would achieve.

"I rather doubt if these three individuals have any significant amount of property in the United States," he said.

Campbell, who has consistently argued against designating Boko Haram an FTO said: "There is the political significance in that the US government has singled them out as global terrorists (but) what the consequences of that would be, I think, is too soon to say."

ANOTHER CHRISTMAS DAY BOMBER ARRESTED

However in Kaduna State, which was equally under a 24-hour curfew following the triple church bombings last Sunday and the attendant reprisals, the government reviewed the restriction on movement to enable Muslims to observe their prayers today and, for Christians to attend church services on Sunday for a few hours.

The state Governor, Patrick Yakova, who announced in a broadcast on radio and television said the curfew would be relaxed from noon to 4pm today to enable Muslims to go for their Friday prayers while on Sunday, the curfew would be relaxed from 9am to 1 pm so that Christians could attend their Sunday service.

However, the 24-hour curfew will remain in force on Saturday.

On January 14, security agents had arrested another suspected mastermind of the Madalla bombing, Kabiru Sokoto, at the Borno State Government Lodge, Abuja. He, however, escaped from custody a few days later and was re-arrested in February in Taraba State.

The JTF Commander, Col. Dahiru Abdullasalam, said Bama was arrested yesterday following a tip-off from some residents in Damaturu and Potiskum. He said Bama was arrested at an undisclosed location in Damaturu, before his attempt to escape.

Abdullasalam declined to give further details on how the suspect was apprehended.

Reviewing the security situation in Damaturu where over 40 people were killed in the clash between troops and Boko Haram adherents, Governor Gaidam's media aide, Alhaji Abdullahi Bego, in a statement said since the tension in the town was easing, the people could go about their business for six hours daily to attend to urgent needs.

Before the lockdown, Damaturu had been under a dawn-to-dusk curfew since December 31, 2011 when President Goodluck Jonathan declared emergency rule in 15 local government areas covering Borno, Yobe, Plateau and Niger States.

The statement said the decision to ease the curfew was taken after a meeting between the government and heads of security agencies during which they reviewed the security situation and mapped out plans to quickly restore normalcy in the beleaguered state.

The government said the restriction on movement would be reviewed periodically as the security situation in Damaturu and other areas in the state improves.

The government expressed gratitude to residents for their forbearance and understanding over the last few days and urged them to continue to cooperate with security agents to ensure peace and security in the state.

In Kaduna, however, residents were beginning to show signs of restlessness, with several of them crying out to the state government to review the 24-hour curfew in the state to ease their suffering.

This compelled Yakova to review the 24-hour curfew only on Friday and Sunday to enable Muslims and Christians to attend mosque and church services on the respective days.

He said he wanted Muslim and Christian adherents to use both days to fast and pray for the peace of the state.

He also thanked the security agencies, traditional and religious leaders for their efforts at cooling down tempers and stemming the tide of violence so that peace could reign in the state.

"We have been having close consultations with the security agencies, traditional and religious leaders on the way forward. We also recognise the passion of our citizens for honouring and observing the tenets of their respective religions.

"We want the adherents of the two main religions in the state to use the two days to fast and pray for the peace of the state.

"The windows that have been created are specifically to allow our citizens to go to their places of worship and pray for the peace of our land," the statement said.

IBRAHIM WANTS CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS TO EMBOLDEN JONATHAN

was in the best interest of democracy.

Mohammed said it was mischievous for some section of the public to insinuate that the House had ulterior motives in inviting the president.

He accused those who interpreted the invitation as an affront to the executive by misrepresenting the issue, stressing that there was nothing undemocratic or unconstitutional in the matter.

"I want to make it abundantly clear that we have not

in any way overstepped our bounds. People should stop overheating the polity by reading ulterior motives to every action we take.

"As a parliament, we are deeply concerned with the worsening state of insecurity and we believe that we need to be proactive by interfering with the president and the service chiefs," he said.

Despite the House's position, Mohammed failed to take into consideration Section 308(1)(c), which precludes

the National Assembly from instituting any process to compel the appearance of the president.

Specifically that section states, inter alia: "No process of any court requiring or compelling the appearance of a person to whom this section applies, shall be applied for or issued."

This, analysts argued, negates the power of the National Assembly to issue warrant, which in itself is a process of court.

In summoning the president on Tuesday, the House said

Jonathan was being invited in his capacity as the nation's chief security officer to brief the parliament at an executive session on the security situation in the country.

Some of the lawmakers, in their contributions to debate on a motion on the security crisis in Kaduna and Yobe States, questioned the rationale behind Jonathan's trip to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for the United Nations Earth Summit Rio+20 at a time when the country was under siege.

Jonathan: Boko Haram Can't Stop Governance

Keeps mum on 2015 • Elects not to publicly declare assets

Gmolofu Ogunmade, Anayo Okalle in Lagos and MoSammed Ballo in Abuja

of terrorist attacks by Boko Haram, President Goodluck Jonathan said yesterday. Jonathan, responding to a

question on whether his trip to Brazil last week to attend the United Nations Earth Summit Rio+20 in the wake

of terrorist attacks in Kaduna and Yobe States, was necessary, told a panel of interviewers at this month's edition of the

presidential media chat that the government must not stop functioning because of terrorism.

According to him, the aim of terrorists is to destabilise the government and they would have reason to celebrate if they discover that because of their

Government activities must continue to run smoothly notwithstanding the spate

Governors Meet on Insecurity, Constitution Amendment... Page 8

Continued on page 8



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June 21, 2012

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Marina, Lagos

Attention: Mr. Kinfa Kabirave

Dear Sir,

RE: N\$5.5BILLION SOI/CBN REFINANCING TERM LOAN UNDER THE CBN POWER AND AIRLINE INTERVENTION FUND (PAID).

We refer to your letter dated 21st June 2012 and would like to confirm the following:

- The above loan of N\$5.5BILLION was applied as per your application letter dated 14th September 2010.
- The above loan was used to refinance part of the existing loans of Air Nigeria under the refinancing window of the N\$500BILLION Power and Airline Intervention Fund (PAIF) established by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

Yours faithfully,
For: United Bank for Africa PLC

Fajana Babasheji
Relationship Manager
Corporate Banking

Dipo Olorunsogo
Divisional Head
Corporate Banking

UBA
United Bank for Africa

Air Nigeria will not be part of any "FORCED MERGER".

We understand the script and we are fully prepared as the event unfolds.
You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.

-Management

PAGE EIGHT

Opposition Parties Laud Azazi's Sack, Seek Security Apparatus Overhaul

Chuks Okocha and Onyetuchi Ezigbo in Abuja

Opposition parties at the weekend called for more efforts from President Goodluck Jonathan in tackling the pervasive insecurity in the North.

While welcoming the removal of Gen. Andrew Owoye Azazi as the National Security Adviser (NSA) and Mohammed Bello as the Minister of Defence, the parties said Jonathan should go beyond the shake-up in tackling terror in

the North, by carrying out a total overhaul of the nation's security apparatus.

The Conference of Nigerian Political Parties (CNPP) and the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) in separate resolutions to the sack of the duo on Friday, also called for the implementation of the Ambassador Usman Gullamari Report on insecurity in the North and addressing the socio-economic factors that help to foster terror in the region.

CNPP, in a statement by its National Publicity, Osaia

Okechukwu, said implementing the report would assist the new NSA, Colonel Sambo Dasuki (rtd), in doing his job.

It called for the interrogation of former President Olusegun Obasanjo, governors of North-east states and all their accomplices, to get to the root of the insecurity in the North.

According to the statement, Azazi and Mohammed's removal was a minor step in the genuine effort to arresting the Boko Haram-induced dangerous slide of Nigeria

into a failed state.

CNPP said in trying to solve the insecurity, Jonathan should address the issues Azazi raised in Asaba on how the activities in the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) have contributed to fuelling disaffection in the polity.

According to the group, though Dasuki was a very fine officer, only Jonathan and the PDP leadership could address the issues raised by Azazi at the South-south Economic Summit.

The CPC also urged the

president to tackle unemployment and address some of the lapses in governance, particularly dropping some ministers that had failed to perform creditably.

CPC National Publicity Secretary, Mr. Rotimi Fashakin, told THURSDAY that the ouster of Azazi and Mohammed were only an aspect of the nation's security headache.

He said the party expected Jonathan to tackle rising unemployment, corruption and poverty as a means of shoring up the confidence

in Nigerians in the system.

"Unemployment of the youths is a major problem. A situation where you have millions of youths roaming the streets unemployed and when they hear about millions and billions being siphoned from government's coffers in the name of fuel subsidy, there is bound to be tension and heightened security crisis in the land. Jonathan should know that there are so many ministers that need to be sacked from the cabinet," he said.

JONATHAN: BOKO HARAM CAN'T STOP GOVERNANCE

activities, the president or any top government official cannot travel to meet international obligations.

The president also fielded questions on last Friday's sack of the National Security Adviser (NSA), Gen. Patrick Owoye Azazi, and Minister of Defence, Dr. Bello Haliru Mohammed, his political future in 2015, the anti-graft war, relationship with the National Assembly and the remaining of the University of Lagos (Unilag) after the late Chief M.K.O. Abiola.

Jonathan said during the presidential media chat broadcast live on the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), that if he had cancelled his trip to Brazil, Boko Haram would have seen it as a remarkable feat and simultaneously as mission accomplished.

The cancellation of the trip, he insisted, would have also sent the wrong signals to the international community which according to him, would have said: "If the president cannot travel, why should anybody come into the country?"

He said his trip did not create a vacuum since he was regularly in touch with security chiefs and other top government officials who were giving him updates on the situation in the country.

"While in Brazil, I got some calls from patriotic Nigerians that people were asking, why should the president be in Brazil; that he should have sent his vice-president or a minister.

"The issue of security, especially when it is related to Boko Haram, is sympathetic because we have lost people, we have lost property and I as the president of this country, I feel the pain.

"One of the tactics of the terrorists is to strangle government and the day they stop the government from functioning

or if the president cannot go to Brazil because of a Boko Haram incident in Kaduna and Damaturu, it would signal to the international community," he said.

On whether the government would hold talks with the terrorists, Jonathan said he was not against dialogue with them, but it would be difficult to talk to a group of people who are faceless.

According to him, Boko Haram members are also lawless Nigerian citizens, and his government was more keen on rehabilitating them and making them productive members of the society as was done to the Niger Delta militants.

"I would love a situation where the Boko Haram members will stop the rubbish they are doing and become productive and contribute to our economy. The government will hold dialogue with Boko Haram but presently the group has no face.

"Nobody will come and tell you that I am the leader of the Boko Haram and government will not hold dialogue with a faceless group because we need to know them and want them to change," he said.

The president revealed that he had not visited Yobe and Borno States, the epicentre of Boko Haram attacks, because the Maiduguri airport was under repair and it would be dangerous to travel in a helicopter to the area due to the security risk.

He explained that he removed Azazi and Mohammed not because they were incompetent, but because a change of strategy was needed to adjust the security architecture by injecting fresh blood into the security structure in response to the changing tactics of Boko Haram.

He said: "Those who have

held these offices have done well but if you look at the evolution of Boko Haram, the interest of the terrorists is to destabilise government and if that doesn't work, they use other tactics and they have continued to change their style, change their strategies.

"So we are also changing and we think that we need other hands to do things differently; not that the people who were there were not capable."

He said he replaced Mrs. Faiza Waziri with Mr. Ibrahim Lamorde as chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) because he got reports that Nigerians had lost confidence in her.

Responding to a question on why his administration was not seen on fighting graft, Jonathan said it was better for anti-graft agencies to conduct thorough investigations into the cases before rushing to court and be unable not to prove them in the court.

He added that several encumbrances and legislative rigmaroles inherent in the English Law, which Nigeria operates, are what makes it difficult for the prosecution of corruption cases in the country.

Jonathan said he would have preferred that the country reverted to the traditional modes of reward and punishment instead of relying on English laws which gives room for criminals to go scot free.

He said his 'body language', which he explained as being very attentive to details, even when they are rubbish never means that he condoned the perpetration of corruption by anybody, no matter how highly placed.

"I am a calm person. I can seat and listen to you for more than 30 minutes even if what you are telling me is rubbish. That has helped me know that society is very complex," he

explained.

The president also explained why he had opted not to openly declare his assets as he did when he was vice-president to the late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua.

According to him, he was under pressure to declare his assets publicly after the late Yar'Adua had done his publicly, but would not do so today as a matter of principle.

He said if he continued along that line, he would be setting a precedent that will require other leaders to publicly declare their assets. "Even if you criticise me to high heavens I will not declare my assets."

"When you amass wealth people will know. I was investigated thoroughly as governor of Bayelsa State before I became the president. I have nothing to hide. It is not proper to ask me or the vice-president to declare our assets. I could be investigated after I leave office. You don't need to play to the gallery. I will not declare my assets," he said.

He also dismissed allegations that the presidency masterminded the bribe-for-clearance scandal involving former chairman of the House ad hoc committee probing the sleaze in the petroleum sector, Hon. Farouk Lawan.

According to the president, who said he strongly supported the probe, if it had been his intention to set up Lawan at all, the choice of a top businessman like Femi Otedola would not have been an option.

He also said if he was not prepared to rid the oil sector of corruption, he would not have appointed renowned anti-graft czar and former presidential candidate of the opposition Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN), Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, as the chairman of Petroleum Revenue Special Task Force, established to enhance probity

and accountability in the oil sector.

Jonathan maintained that the presidency was not shielding any PDP top notch from indictment. "Nobody on the Board of Trustees of the PDP was mentioned in the subsidy report," he explained.

He also condemned the illegal stealing of oil in the country, appealing to all Nigerians to help the government overcome what he described as criminal.

On why his government increased the electricity tariffs without any improvement in power supply, Jonathan said the idea was to make rich people pay more while the poor would pay less with a view to encouraging the private sector to invest in the sector.

He went on to appeal to Nigerians to exercise more patience with the government over lack of power supply in the country, saying that government was doing its best to overcome the situation.

According to the president, he is not unaware of the difficulties ordinary Nigerians faced every day as a result of the constant power outages.

"Even in Brazil, the issue was discussed. Brazil is coming with some money to help resuscitate the ailing power sector. We don't have enough money to say we can do this alone," he explained, pointing out that the overhaul of power infrastructure was something that has to be done holistically.

"Turbines have been imported into the country. But we need gas and most of the contracts for gas have not been awarded. It takes time. We still have challenges even acquiring routes where electricity conductors will pass through," Jonathan said.

He also explained that the acquisition of gas was not easy as much of the gas

that is needed for the power projects belong to international oil companies, which are in business not for charity. "The Federal Government does not manufacture gas. They are owned by the IOCs," he noted.

Jonathan evaded questions on his rumoured re-election bid, saying it was too early to talk about 2015. He also said if he declared his interest now, it would generate fresh politicking and heat up the polity, and it would be worse if he promises not to run now.

He denied insinuations that he had a strained relationship with the National Assembly despite the fact that there might be issues between the presidency and the House of Representatives.

He added that he was yet to see the resolution of the lower House summoning him over security matters, adding, nonetheless that the summons was not a big deal, adding that appearing before a House of the National Assembly is not unusual since some presidents address their nations through their legislative institutions.

He explained that he was yet to see the resolution, but would address the invitation when it reaches him.

The president also explained that there was no compelling law asking him to consult the Senate or the Unilag or necessarily repealing the Act establishing it before renaming the institution.

He, however, disclosed that if the National Assembly rejected the name change, the institution would revert to its former name.

I-TSE THURSDAY SERVICES INDEX			
TOP GAINERS	NGM	NGN	%
GTASSURE	0.07	147	5
ETERINA	0.15	317	49
IBTC	0.3	635	43
MANDRIO	0.28	534	43
GLAXOSMITH	1	225	46
TOP LOSER 5	NGM	NGN	%
UBN	0.2	3.8	5
LWESTOCK	0.05	0.95	5
ARIBCO	1.3	247	5
BERGER	0.47	838	49
AVONCROWN	0.15	31	49
HPE Hestite Mly Pk. #425.00			
Volume: 173.30 million shares			
Value: N138.00m			
Date: 2.956			
Weekend record up 22/06/12			
See details on Page 48			

Governors Meet on Insecurity, Constitution Amendment

Chuks Okocha in Abuja

Over 23 governors met yesterday in Abuja over increasing insecurity in the North and other national issues.

The meeting, presided over by the Chairman of Nigeria Governors' Forum,

Mr. Chubuike Ananchi of Rivers States also had on its agenda, the amendment to the 1999 constitution to which they are expected to make input.

It was expected that the governors would harmonise their positions on the critical

areas of the constitution that should be amended such as the 'immunity clause', local government financing and the constitutionality of the Excess Crude Account.

Also, the meeting was expected to take a position on the demand for a new

revenue sharing formula.

The meeting, which started at about 8:30 am at the Rivers State Governor's Lodge, was still going on as at press time.

A communiqué is expected after the meeting this morning. States that were represented by their governors included

Rivers, Niger, Borno, Enugu, Sokoto, Delta, Taraba, Ekiti, Oyo, Kwara, Plateau, Zamfara, Kogi, Nassarwa, Kaduna, Abia and Anambra.

The deputy governors of Ondo, Jigawa, Kano, Adamawa and Lagos represented their principals.



Okonjo-Iweala Insists Budget's Attained 56% Execution

Promises transparency, prudent management of resources

Francis Ndujisi and Mohammed Bello in Abuja

Minister for the Economy, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, has reiterated the Federal Government's commitment to the prudent management of the nation's resources, adding that this has enabled the government to achieve 56 per cent budget

execution by June 20. The House had over the weekend taken exception to the "poor and selective" implementation of the 2012 budget by the executive arm of government and the attitude of officials of government saddled with the

responsibility of implementing the budget.

It specifically singled out Okonjo-Iweala and accused her of subjecting the 2012 Appropriation Act to her personal whims and caprices which, the House Committee Chairman

on Media and Public Affairs, Hon. Zakari Mohammed, who addressed the press on the issue, said was unlawful.

"It is not within her powers to pick and choose projects and programmes to fund as has been the case with the Appropriation

Act, 2012. Her piecemeal and discretionary release of funds for projects, contrary to the schedule approved in the Appropriation Act, is unlawful. She is, in fact, breaking the law," he had said.

Continued on page 6

in a swift reaction to Sunday's findings by the House of Representatives on the implementation of the 2012 budget, the Minister of Finance and Coordinating

Tuesday 31 July, 2012
Vol 17, No 6308, Price: N150

THIS DAY

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TODAY'S WEATHER ABUJA 22-30°C MAIDUGURI 28-37°C ENUGU 24-35°C KANO 23-37°C LAGOS 23-27°C PORT HARCOURT 22-28°C

Four Killed in First Boko Haram Attack on Sokoto

Gunmen attack VP's Zaria home Four suspected terrorists killed in Kano

Muhammad Bello, Onwula Nzeshe in Abuja, Mohammed Aminu in Sokoto, John Shildam in Kaduna, Michael Olugbode in Damaturu and Ibrahim Shuaibu in Kano

and engaged policemen in a gun duel.

The attacks came on a day gunmen, suspected to be Boko Haram terrorists, attacked the family home of Vice-President Namadi Sambo in Zaria, Kachana State and four suspected terrorists were killed in Kano, the Kano State capital, after a gun duel with the police.

Four persons were confirmed dead and eight policemen injured

Continued on page 6



ANOTHER RUIN

AIG Muktar Ibrahim inspecting the damage at his office after the bomb blast in Sokoto... yesterday

NAH

Sokoto, the seat of the Caliphate and the home of the National Security Adviser (NSA), Col. Sambo Dasuki (td), yesterday got its first taste of terror attacks as Boko Haram insurgents set off twin bomb blasts in the town

EFCC Arraigns Three More Oil Marketers for Fraud

Sons of Tukur, Ahmadu Ali, others fail to meet bail terms

Ike Abonyi in Abuja and Akintunde in Lagos

marketing companies and one oil-marketing and trading (OM&T) firm before a Lagos High Court in Ikeja, for fuel subsidy fraud.

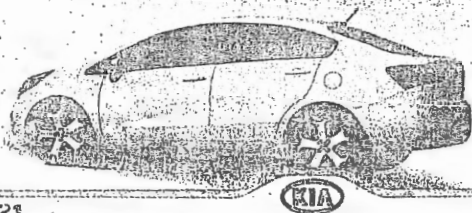
Continued on page 6

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) yesterday arraigned two more directors of oil-

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Atiku Advocates Return to Regionalism

● Describes Nigerian presidents as the most powerful worldwide ● Tirubu seeks abrogation of Senate

Chuks Okocha in Abuja
Former Vice-President Atiku Abubakar yesterday called for a review of Nigeria's political system with the country returning to the regional structure

that obtained in the First Republic. Atiku said that the current three-tier structure, comprising

the federal, states and councils should give way to a two-tier system made up of the six geopolitical zones with states

serving as provinces. He called for decentralisation of power to other lesser tiers of government so that the people

would have a greater say in governance, but disabused the notion that decentralisation could lead to a breakup of

the country. The former vice-president spoke at the annual Leadership Newspapers Awards in Abuja where former Lagos

Oando, Integrated Energy, Vigeo, 18 Others to Bid for Discos ... Page 11

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TODAY'S WEATHER ABUJA 22-28°C MAIDUGURI 23-30°C ENIGU 22-27°C KANO 23-30°C LAGOS 22-28°C PORT HARCOURT 22-29°C

JTF Discovers 36 Bombs in Boko Haram Hideout

● Sect Kills Borno justice commissioner ● Former prisons' controller-general dies

Michael Olugbode in Maiduguri and Ibrahim Shuaibu in Kano

Following Monday's killing of a Boko Haram kingpin suspected to be its spokesman, Abu Qaqa, and the arrest of two others, the Joint Military Task Force (JTF) has uncovered a large cache of locally made bombs prepped for launching attacks on various targets in

Kano, the Kano State capital. The special military task force said in a statement yesterday that 36 prepared improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were part of the recovery made by the security operatives during the capture of two members of the terrorist sect. Although the discovery has helped in preventing imminent

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MANY HAPPY RETURNS

Edo State Governor, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole (left), congratulating former military governor of old Midwestern State, Brig. Gen. Samuel Ogbemudia (rtd.), during the latter's 80th birthday celebration and launch of the Ogbemudia Foundation in Benin City, Edo State... yesterday

LWAN/CR/AFR/12A

National Assembly Tells CBN to Shelve N5,000 Banknote

● House insists on Oteh's sack

Onwuka Nzeshe and Dele Ogbodo in Abuja

The currency restructuring project and proposed introduction of the N5,000 banknote by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) may have run into a hitch yesterday, as both chambers of the National Assembly rejected the project.

The rejection came just as the Cross River Political Network stormed the National Assembly in protest against the continued silence of the government to seek a review of the ruling of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the ceding of Bakassi Peninsula to Cameroon.

Continued on page 10

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JTF DISCOVERS 36 BOMBS IN BOKO HARAM CONTROL CENTRE

attacks on targets in Kano, the insurgent group struck in Borno State on Monday night, killing the state Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Zanna Malam Gana.

JTF spokesman in Kano, Lieutenant Ileschichi Iwcha, said in a statement that the security agency, after the Monday incident, raided the suspects' heavily-wired hideout, believed to be the sect's control centre in Kano, during which two AK 47 rifles, two pump action rifles, one baretta rifle and one smoke discharger were seized.

The JTF, during the raid, also impounded 433 rounds of 7.62 Nato ammunition, 80 rounds of 7.62 special ammunition, two AK 47 magazines, 13 laptops, two motorcycles, four printers, one photocopier, one 33 slots Zenith disc writer, a generating set, religious books, large quantities of CD plates and two decoders.

Other items removed from the hideout included two satellite dishes, a 21" television set, one DVD player, two bags of fertiliser and 10 hand held Motorola radios.

Iwcha added that the killing of the Boko Haram chief and the arrest of two others had foiled the group's planned attack on Kano.

The Islamic sect, however, continued to unleash a reign of terror on Borno State where it killed Gana.

The attack on Gana came a

day after the insurgents engaged security agents in a gun duel in Borno on Sunday night, leading to the death of no fewer than 10 persons.

Gana was killed in Bama, his hometown, which is about 75 kilometres from Maiduguri, the capital of the troubled state.

Source said he was at a local meeting place with some friends and relatives when four gunmen stormed the venue.

"They demanded money first and he immediately offered N100,000. Then they said it was not enough and he begged that he should be allowed to pick some money in his car just in front of where they were seated but they said there was no need.

"They said his journey has ended today (Monday) and they shot him in the chest and head and then fled," an eyewitness and family member of the deceased recalled yesterday in Bama during the burial of the commissioner.

Gana, 63, was said to have travelled to Bama during the weekend and had planned to return to Maiduguri on Sunday but was compelled to alter his plan when JTF troops shut down the Bama-Maiduguri Road after the Sunday bomb explosions and killings.

He reportedly returned to Bama on Sunday afternoon, but unknown to him that he was returning to his death.

"He left Bama on Sunday morning to return to Maiduguri

but was compelled to return to Bama again because soldiers had already cordoned off the Bama end of the road in Maiduguri due to the bomb blast and killings that day.

"He stayed on the road for about three hours and decided to return to Bama again when it became impossible for him to enter the state capital," the eyewitness said.

The state Governor, Alhaji Kashim Shettima, who led government delegation to attend the funeral rites, could not control his emotion as he shed tears.

In Maiduguri, men of the JTF and some members of the Boko Haram sect had engaged in an exchange of gunfire that left at least 10 persons dead while some houses were set ablaze.

An eyewitness, Mallam Usman Abdullahi, told reporters that a locally made bomb, suspected to have been planted on Sunday by some terrorists targeting a security patrol vehicle in Gwange Ward of Maiduguri, exploded leaving two men of the JTF seriously injured.

"Soon after the explosion, gunshots followed, but the JTF after repelling the attack quickly cordoned off the area," he said.

A hospital attendant at the State Specialist Hospital, who craved anonymity, told THISDAY that he saw two patrol vehicles of the JTF with some bodies around the gate of the hospital, adding that each of the vehicles had five bodies in it.

Also on Sunday at about 8:45 pm, some gunmen shot and injured a businessman and a stalwart of the ruling All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) in Yobe State, Alhaji Mustapha Sheriff Mashidimami.

It was gathered that the gunman, who invaded the family house of the politician in Maiduguri, demanded some unspecified amount of money, but when he was unable to meet their demand, they shot and injured him before they fled.

Efforts to speak on the phone to the JTF spokesman, Lt. Col. Sagir Musa, and the Police Public Relations Officer, Gideon Jhain, were unsuccessful because of communication glitches occasioned by the attacks on some telecommunication masts of service providers in the state.

In a related development, the former Controller-General of the Nigerian Prisons, Jarma Katagun, has died as a result of complications from the gunshot wounds inflicted on him by suspected members of Boko Haram.

Katagun was shot in his hometown of Azare, Bauchi State, shortly after he left a mosque and was rushed to a local hospital for immediate treatment.

He later died following complications from his gunshot wounds. Also, two security guards attached to the ex-prison official lost their lives in the attack.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TELLS CBN TO SHELVE N5,000 BANKNOTE

In separate motions, the parliamentarians unanimously voted against the currency restructuring proposal, termed Project Cure, and urged President Goodluck Jonathan to direct the CBN Governor, Mallam Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, to halt the project.

However, the House directed its Committee on Banking and Currency to conduct an investigation into the planned restructuring of the currency and report back in four weeks.

While the investigation lasts, the House said the CBN must suspend all plans and processes towards the actualisation of the project.

In addition, the lower chamber of the parliament has resolved to pursue the amendment to the CBN Act to ensure that in the future the central bank is compelled not only to submit its annual budget for parliamentary scrutiny, but seeks parliamentary approval on issues such as currency restructuring and re-denomination.

Chairman, Senate Committee on Rules and Business, Senator Ita Enang, who led the debate in the upper chamber, said the policy was contradictory to the cashless policy already being executed by the CBN.

President of the Senate, Senator David Mark, who expressed concern about CBN actions, said he learnt of the policy through the pages of the newspapers.

According to Mark, the CBN governor acted ultra vires when he floated the project without considering input from the National Assembly.

He also argued that the currency restructuring plans by CBN do not address the country's economic problems and that the CBN has not been able to substitute the reason for the planned introduction of the N5,000 banknote to the economy.

"I think the most important thing is that if Nigerians say that they don't want a particular policy at a given moment, there is no harm in government retracting her steps.

"I have listened to the arguments from those who support the introduction of the policy, but those arguments are simply not convincing and they appear to me to be highly theoretical, technical in nature and they don't address any practical issue on the ground.

"I think the disadvantages of the introduction of the N5,000 note at the moment far outweigh the advantages of introducing it and on balance we would not go for it," Mark said.

Some other lawmakers who contributed to the debate said the timing was wrong and that the policy was unnecessary at the moment.

Chairman, Senate Committee on Information and Media, Senator Ehyinnaya Abaribe, who addressed journalists after the plenary, said the Senate considered the matter as very urgent because of the likely impact of the currency restructuring exercise on the populace.

He said the resolution of the Senate is that the proposed action of CBN was illegal because

states: "The National Assembly shall have power to make laws, order good governance of the federation or any part thereof on any matter included in the exclusive legislative list set out in Part 1 of the Second Schedule of this Constitution."

Abaribe added that on the basis of the relevant section of the constitution, the National Assembly has the legislative power to order the reversal of any of CBN's plans.

In the House of Representatives, Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business, Hon. Albert Sam-Isokwa, led the debate against the N5,000 banknote project, which was premised on a motion sponsored by 21 lawmakers.

Sam-Isokwa expressed worry that the currency restructuring was coming when the cashless policy was yet to fully sink into the psyche of the citizens.

He described the views expressed by some economists and professionals that the N5,000 note will not cause inflation or reduce purchasing power of the currency as misleading.

"The policy is also inconsistent with international best practices as leading economies like the United States of America (USA), Britain and China do not have such high currency notes in circulation.

"The largest denomination of the British pound currently in circulation is the fifty pound note and that of the United States is the one hundred dollar bill.

"The United States led at a point in time experimented and introduced high denominations such \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000 but phased them out or withdrew them from circulation due to their adverse effects on the US economy as well as the use of electronic money transfer," he said.

Chairman, House Committee on Banking and Currency, Hon. Jones Oyeerem, also briefed the House on the policy, stating that the CBN did not intimate the relevant committees of the parliament before introducing the currency restructuring project. He added that the committee had conveyed its strong reservations on the issue to the central bank.

Also, the House yesterday renewed its censure for the sack of the Director General, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Ms Arunma Oteh, insisting it was not prepared to back down on its earlier resolution on the matter.

At its resumed sitting yesterday, the lower chamber of the National Assembly passed a resolution requesting the president to remove Oteh from office for allegedly being unqualified by law to occupy the position, incompetent and her inability to manage the organisation.

The House warned that it shall henceforth cease to accord any recognition to Oteh or deal with the embattled body as the Director General of SEC.

In what appeared like an ultimatum, the House directed its Committee on Legislative Compliance to monitor developments on the issue and to brief it on the level of

ATIKU ADVOCATES RETURN TO FEDERAL SYSTEM

State Governor, Senator Bola Tinubu, called for the scrapping of the Senate as a way of reducing the cost of governance, while former Minister of Defence, Lt-Gen. Theophilus Danjuma, decried the overweening influence of governors in the polity.

The former vice-president, in his address, advocated the restructuring of the federating units in such a way that it would strengthen the various geopolitical zones.

According to him, "I want to recall that during the 1994-95 Constitutional Conference, Dr. Alex Ekwueme, the Second Republic vice-president of this federation, introduced and canvassed for the concept of geopolitical zones.

"I was among those who opposed it because I thought that Ekwueme, coming from the defunct Republic of Biafra, wanted to break up the country again.

"Now, I realise that I should have supported him because our current federal structure

is clearly not working. Dr. Ekwueme obviously saw what some of us, with our civil war mindset, could not see at the time. There is indeed too much concentration of power and resources at the centre.

"And it is stifling our march to true greatness as a nation and threatening our unity because of all the abuses, inefficiencies, corruption and reactive tensions that it has been generating.

"There is need, therefore, to review the structure of the Nigerian federation, preferably along the basis of the current six geopolitical zones as regions and the states as provinces.

"The existing states structure may not suffice, as the states are too weak materially and politically to provide what is needed for good governance."

Atiku also weighed in on the ongoing debate over the desirability or otherwise of decentralising the nation's police force, saying there was nothing wrong with each state having its own police unit so long as it could be insulated from and is independent of the state or regional government.

"Should we abolish the Nigerian Police because it is often abused by those in power at the federal level? Should we abolish the state treasuries because governors abuse them? And should we also abolish local governments for the same reason? No. We should, as a people, struggle for and put in place institutional safeguards against abuse of power by those in power at all levels.

"We have a chance now to put many of those safeguards in a new constitution. The argument that governors will abuse

On decentralisation of power, he said: "Why should we be talking of federal roads and federal secondary schools? Decentralisation is not an invitation to the breakup of the country and national unity should not continue to be confused with unitarism and concentration of power and resources at the federal level.

"Of course, I am aware that some of the main beneficiaries of our erstwhile regional parliamentary democracy have been hiding behind the call for restructuring to push for the breakup of the country because of their proximity to a fertile natural resource and transient political power."

Atiku said because of excessive centralisation and the military rule that facilitated it, the Nigerian president is the most powerful leader in the world.

"This is because he can quite literally unleash all security agencies on an individual or organisation, undermine the National Assembly, and turn the judiciary into an almost pro-government and conformist organ.

"This is not in the realm of speculation; it has been happening in this country: I've tried, I drew attention to it when I was in office as vice-president, and was having a political face-off with my boss. It is not healthy for democracy and must be changed," he said.

Supporting Atiku's position, Danjuma described governors as powerful sole administrators who command enormous powers.

He said the governors are in control of ministers appointed

Democratic Party (PDP), the president has no power without the governors who control the delegates.

"Our governors are the most powerful. There is the need for a radical and drastic restructuring of the country," he stressed.

In his speech, Tinubu who lamented the cost of governance, called for the scrapping of the Senate, saying only the House of Representatives should be retained, as it is more representative of the people.

He queried why the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) should have a first line charge, when its chairman has no power to appoint resident electoral commissioners (RECs).

He said it was not in the interest of democracy for the president to be appointing RECs.

Elk State Governor, Dr. Kayode Fayemi, who received an award during the ceremony as Governor of the Year, however, told the gathering that there was hope in the country.

Fayemi, who spoke on behalf of the recipients of the awards, called on Nigerians not to lose hope in their country, adding that the desire to make the country better must be collective.

He said the opposition would make sure that they come together to provide an alternative to the ruling PDP.

The highlight of the occasion was the presentation of the *Lanternship Newspapers* awards of Person of the Year to Danjuma, Governor of the Year to Fayemi and the Politician of the Year to House of Representatives

Table with columns: TOP GAINERS, THURSDAY STOCK INDEX, and various stock symbols like AIBREW, BAGCO, DIAMOND, FROSON, YAPCO, etc.

Alison-Madueke: Why FG Seeks Increased Take in Offshore Oil Blocks

hika Amanze-Nwachuku
The Minister of Petroleum Resources, Mrs. Diezani Alison-Madueke, late Wednesday threw more light on why the Federal government is proposing a review of the fiscal terms covering the Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for

deep water fields in the draft Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) currently before the National Assembly for consideration. Speaking at the third Nigerian Investment Summit held in New York under the auspices of the

African Business Roundtable, Alison-Madueke noted that the increase in government take in the deep offshore blocks from the current 61 per cent to 73 per cent was necessitated by prevailing realities in the global oil

and gas industry. "I like to state once again that the proposed increase of government's take to about 73 per cent is not only competitive but considerable when we look at the scale of other entities around the

world like Norway, Indonesia and even Angola with even higher government take," the minister said. Alison-Madueke added that based on the prevailing realities in the global oil industry, it was only natural

to review the terms of the PSC to reflect the current trend. The 1993 PSCs were based on \$20 per barrel as the price of crude oil but since the start of production from the PSC fields, crude prices have risen multiple-fold, thus the need to review the terms.

FG Reopens Lokoja Highway Road, as Floods Submerge Lagos... Page 7

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THIS DAY

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TODAY'S WEATHER **ABUJA** 23-30°C **MAIDUGURI** 26-39°C **ENUGU** 23-30°C **IKANO** 25-37°C **LAGOS** 24-30°C **PORTHARCOURT** 23-31°C

We're Winning War against Boko Haram, Says Jonathan

● Mulls gradual removal of fuel subsidy

Raul Ohia with agency report
President Goodluck Jonathan expressed optimism that the acts of terrorism being perpetrated by the Islamic sect, *Boko Haram*, which has killed over 1,000 people in the North since 2010, will soon be over. Jonathan told Reuters in an interview on Wednesday in

New York on the sidelines of the ongoing General Assembly meeting of the United Nations, that the Federal Government's multifaceted approach in tackling terrorism has started bearing fruit. He also dropped a hint that he had not given up on the complete withdrawal of fuel

Continued on page 8

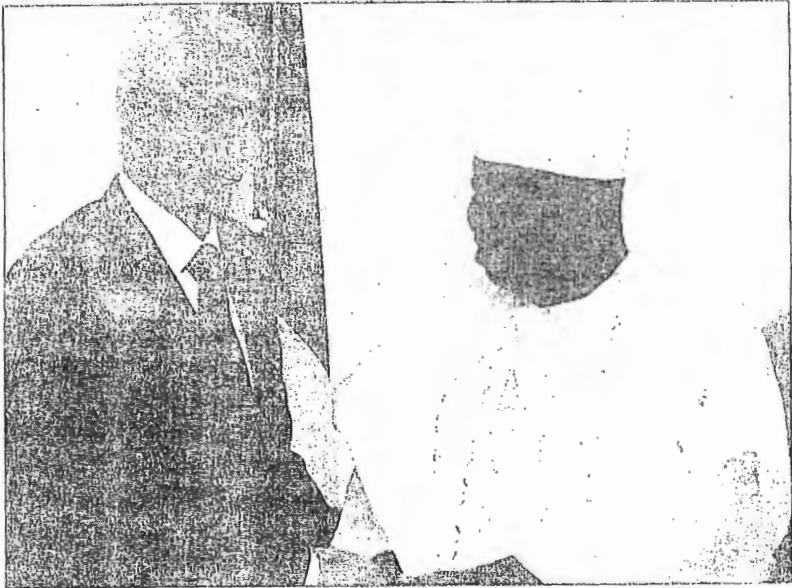
● FG Delegation Off to S'Arabia on Pilgrim Rescue Mission

● Hajj commission suspends all flights to Jeddah, Madinah

Onwuka Nzeshi, Damilola Oyedele in Abuja, Ibrahim Shuaibu in Kano and Aisha Wakaso in Minna
A Federal Government delegation, headed by the Speaker, House of Representatives, Hon.

Aminu Tambuwal, is expected to leave Nigeria today for Saudi Arabia to discuss with that country's authorities over the fate of Nigerian female intending pilgrims who are

Continued on page 8



TREAT US BETTER
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Aminu Tambuwal (right) with the Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Nigeria, Khalid Y.O. Abdrahuh, at a meeting in Abuja over the pilgrim crisis... yesterday

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PAGE EIGHT

ALISON-MADUEKE: WHY FG SEEKS INCREASED TAKE IN OFFSHORE OIL BLOCKS

The minister also stated that the new PIB provides for a refreshing fiscal regime, which has strong incentives for enhanced exploration of new frontiers, especially in the inland sedimentary basins as well as providing a strong support base for the complete activation of the Gas Master Plan.

Under the new arrangement, the fiscal regime is anchored on royalties and taxes, which will now be predicated on production as opposed to terrain and investment, as had obtained in the past.

Alison-Madueke called on investors across the world to embrace the various business opportunities that the oil reform law would offer.

The high level investment round table was declared open by President Goodluck

Jonathan with former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and ex-US Secretary of State, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, as special guests.

Despite the minister's explanation, international oil companies (IOCs) operating in the country continue to express reservations about the fiscal terms in the revised PIB.

Anglo-Dutch oil giant, Shell, which spoke out against some sections of the PIB on Wednesday, was joined by ExxonMobil yesterday.

ExxonMobil's chief executive in Nigeria, Mark Ward, who also leads a grouping of oil majors operating in Nigeria, said industry players shared the view that the current bill jeopardises Nigeria's bid to boost new investment and output.

"Quite frankly, the extremely large investments that are needed are seriously at risk under the proposed PIB terms," he told a forum on the bill in Lagos.

If the bill passes without significant changes, "the government's aspirations to grow the business and the industry will not be met," he said.

Ward argued that the new bill could push the government's take from oil revenue to above 90 per cent of all revenue.

"Nigeria is already one of the most onerous fiscal regimes and now the government wants to make it tougher? That is something we don't understand," Ward said.

Any hopes of expanding lucrative offshore production would be quashed if the bill

passes unchanged, Ward said.

"The deep water, we're done. There are no investments that can be supported under the current terms of the PIB," he said.

Meanwhile, both chambers of the National Assembly have finished a first reading of the bill, paving the way for lawmakers to debate the long awaited legislation, Speaker, House of Representatives, Hon. Aminu Tambuwal, said.

According to Reuters, the lower house read the bill yesterday, Tambuwal said, while the Senate read it last week.

A previous draft never got through parliament, although this time the bill has the explicit backing from the president, who approved the latest draft in July.

FG DELEGATION OFF TO SAUDI ARABIA ON PILGRIM RESCUE MISSION

being detained in Madinah.

About 1,000 would-be female pilgrims were detained on arrival in Madinah between Monday and Tuesday for not being accompanied by male chaperons, as provided for under Saudi Arabia's immigration law that women under 40 years must be accompanied by male chaperons to be allowed to perform the pilgrimage.

As a result of the development, the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) has suspended all flights to Jeddah and Madinah until a resolution is reached on what has snowballed into a diplomatic row between both countries.

NAHCON has also dismissed the reason given by Saudi Arabia for its action, saying that it breached the understanding between the two countries that Nigeria's female contingent would be exempted from the law so long as they are accompanied by NAHCON officials.

At least 159 of them from Oyo, Katsina and Taraba States were deported on Wednesday.

Another batch of 572 female pilgrims arrived at the Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport (MAKIA), Kano, yesterday from Saudi Arabia.

The female pilgrims who are from Kano, Katsina, Jigawa and Zamfara States, arrived in Kano aboard a Meridian Air aircraft that landed at about 8.50pm.

THISDAY checks revealed yesterday that plans have been concluded for the five-man Federal Government delegation to leave for Saudi Arabia to broker a truce in the crisis.

President Goodluck Jonathan had through the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Senator Aniyim Fins Aniyim, on Wednesday, raised the delegation whose other members are: Minister of State II for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Nuruddeen Othman; Ambassador Shehu Galdan-chi; Sheikh Sherif Saleh; and the NAHCON Chairman, Alhaji Muhammad M. Bello.

As part of efforts to resolve the crisis, Tambuwal yesterday met with the Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Khalid Abdurabuh, who reiterated, his assurance, that the controversy would be resolved

shortly. The duo met behind closed doors to deliberate on the way out of the pilgrimage standoff.

Abdurabuh explained that the issue of detention of female pilgrims who failed to meet entry requirements was not restricted to Nigeria, as some pilgrims from other countries had also been subjected to the same treatment on arrival at the Holy Land.

Just like he had told Vice-President Sambu during a meeting on Wednesday at the State House, the ambassador said officials of the Saudi Ministry of Hajj were already holding talks with a delegation of the Nigerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Mecca on the issue.

Sambu, during the Wednesday meeting, had given Saudi Arabia a 24-hour ultimatum to resolve the issue.

Tambuwal, who spoke to reporters at the end of the meeting, also said the Nigerian mission in Riyadh has been meeting with the Saudi authorities to resolve the situation.

But NAHCON has dismissed the excuses tendered by Saudi authorities for the deportation of Nigerian female pilgrims from the King Abdul-Aziz Airport in Jeddah.

A man, who declined to disclose his identity, was deported alongside his wife by Saudi authorities after they had insisted on deporting his wife for not having a male chaperon.

The commission said over 16 flights carrying Nigerians had already landed in Saudi Arabia with all its passengers, including unescorted women, allowed into Saudi Arabia, before the authorities suddenly decided to implement their policy of not allowing unaccompanied women into the country.

However, the Head of Media of the commission, Mallam Uba Wina, yesterday revealed that 509 female pilgrims, on their way back to Nigeria from Saudi Arabia after being stopped from proceeding with their pilgrimage.

He said that Saudi immigration officials at King Abdulaziz Airport in Jeddah refused the women entry, saying they were not travelling with their husbands or male chaperons.

Mana said some did travel with their husbands and that a lone male passenger was on the returning flight after refusing to be separated from his wife.

Mana told THISDAY yesterday that local officials of the commission have always stood as guarantors of female pilgrims where they are not accompanied by their husbands or male relations.

He said: "All through history, we have never had this kind of case or issue. All of a sudden, this happened, and by deporting a man alongside his wife, they have shown that their excuses are incorrect."

"What they said is that every woman has to be matched with either her husband or a male blood relation, but we have an instance whereby a woman who was travelling with her husband was not allowed to perform the pilgrimage, and in anger, the husband decided not to perform the pilgrimage also and came back home."

Mana, who expressed hope that the matter would be resolved amicably, said the deported pilgrims would be allowed to perform the pilgrimage when the crisis is settled.

"Financially, they would lose nothing if the issue is resolved, they would go back as long as their particulars are intact at no cost to them," he said.

Mana's assurance, notwithstanding, the commission yesterday suspended all flights to the Middle-eastern country for the next 48 hours, pending the resolution of the crisis. This was announced in a statement yesterday, signed by Abdullahi Mukhtar Muhammad.

According to the statement, the hajj commission said it has been "compelled to temporarily suspend all hajj flights for the next 48 hours, following the unprecedented and worrisome development of detaining over 1,000 female pilgrims from Nigeria at the King Abdulaziz International Airport, Jeddah and Prince Muhammad Ibn azzez International Airport, Madinah."

The commission added that it was taking this step after wide consultation with all stakeholders. "This is to enable the commission to appraise the situation and resolve the

view to surmounting all the challenges being faced," the statement added.

The commission urged "all intending pilgrims to remain calm as all hands are on deck to resolve the issue and hajj flights will resume once the matter is resolved."

It added that "all pilgrims that Nigerian carriers appointed for the 2012 Hajj airlift have sufficient capacity to airlift the remaining 60,000 pilgrims well ahead of the closure of Jeddah airport on October 20."

Similarly, the Niger State Pilgrims Welfare Commission has suspended its inaugural transportation of pilgrims to the country for this year's pilgrimage.

According to the spokesman of the commission, Alhaji Sari Awwal, the suspension complies with NAHCON directive.

"We aborted our planned inaugural flight to Saudi Arabia. We had finished the screening of the 500 intending pilgrims from Mashegu, Paikoro and Mariga Local Government Areas, including medical officials and the delegation commission, when the message of the suspension reached us, we will comply with it."

"In fact, the pilgrims were already at the Minna International Airport after the completion of their screening at the Hajj camp, while the carrier, MAX Airline, had stationed its plane on the tarmac waiting, when the suspension came into effect," he said.

THISDAY	
TOP GAINERS	
UNILEVER	151 4011 5
LIFESTOCK	007 154 47
NEUBETH	005 180 47
TRANSICORP	005 180 47
OLIV	01 228 45
TOP LOSERS	
FRIDA	013 121 97
REGSTAR	028 252 87
QANDO	054 1221 49
UNIONBANK	041 79 49
CONI	025 49 48

NPE Result (Nig) P/c K520.00
Volume: 329,309 million shares
Value: (13.07) billion
Deals: 4,340
As at yesterday 27/09/12
Sector: Agriculture and related
Sector: Manufacturing and related
Sector: Services and related
Sector: Technology and related
Sector: Financial and related
Sector: Energy and related
Sector: Real Estate and related
Sector: Other

WE'RE WINNING WAR AGAINST BOKO HARAM, SAYS JONATHAN

subsidy, despite the strong opposition to the policy that forced him to back down last January when he attempted it.

According to him, the "robust" approach to checking Boko Haram using military force, holding individuals within the group and improving education in the North has led to a reduction in the number of successful attacks carried out by the insurgents.

Security agents in the last few months seemed to have gained the upper hand in their frequent clashes with the terrorists, many of whom have either been killed or arrested.

The security agents made a major breakthrough in their anti-terror campaign last Monday when they killed a suspected top member of the insurgent group and arrested 156 others in Mubi, Adamawa State.

Operatives of the special security squad, Operation Restore Sanity, made the arrest during a raid on the insurgents' hideout in Mubi, which led to a gun battle with the terrorists in which one of the Boko Haram key commanders, believed to be Abubakar Yola, alias Abu Jihad, was killed.

Four of the 156 persons arrested are also believed to be top unit commanders of the sect involved in the recent bombings of telecommunications facilities in the North-east about three weeks ago.

In addition, over 300 improvised explosive devices already primed for detonation, 25 assorted brands of rifles, mostly brand new AK 47, submachine guns and over 2,000 daggers, swords, bows and poisoned arrows were recovered from the hideout.

Also recovered was a huge quantity of bomb-making devices, which was stored in a large compound, situated at Shagari Low Cost Housing, Mubi.

Security agents also in Yobe killed 35 suspected Boko Haram members in a raid on their hideout in Danantuni, the Yobe State capital, between last Sunday and Monday.

The killing of Abu Jihad and others came one week after the Joint Military Task Force (JTF) claimed to have killed a key member of the sect, suspected to be the sect's spokesman, Abu Qaqa, a non de guerre used by the spokesman of the sect, and arrested two others in Kano.

Jonathan, in his interview with Reuters, however, played down the significance of the killing of Abu Qaqa, in a gun battle in Kano on September 16.

"If I look at it, the trend is coming down," he said about the threat posed by Boko Haram. "It's not because Abu Qaqa is dead. Abu Qaqa is just one person. If one Abu Qaqa dies, it can generate 10 Abu Qaqa's. The issue is not the death of one person. The issue is that the robust approach that government is taking, exploiting all possible means, is paying off, and we believe it will continue to pay off."

The president made it clear that the military approach could only be one part of the solution.

Much more important, he said, was a push to improve agricultural production in

and access to Western-style education in the North.

"The whole approach, both the security aspects, both the indirect talks, and the job opportunities that we are creating, is achieving results. We are giving hope to the people. The education institutions we are establishing are giving hope to the people."

"One link-up with the other to get to the response we are seeing now, I cannot credit it to only one approach," Jonathan said.

Last month, presidential spokesman, Dr. Reuben Abati, had said the Federal Government was reaching out to Boko Haram and talking with some of its members through "backdoor channels" as it seeks a peaceful way out of terrorism.

On the crisis of confidence between the Federal Government and states over the establishment of the Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF), the president said both parties would soon resolve their differences.

The governors have proposed fresh terms to the Federal Government as a condition for withdrawing their suit before the Supreme Court, challenging the legality of the operation of the Excess Crude Account (ECA) from whose government withdrew the \$1 billion seed capital for the take-off of the SWF.

"Yes, we can go to court but we believe it's not the best to solve certain problems through a court. We are discussing, and I believe at the end of the day we will get to a point where both parties will win."

"They are not arguing because they know that the issue of the Sovereign Wealth Fund is transparent, they trust the Minister of Finance."

"They feel that some of the states have challenges and they want to decide what percentage they can put in. But we feel it is better we do it collectively," the president said.

Jonathan also talked about his push to abolish fuel subsidy, for which he had to beat a retreat last January in the face of crippling nationwide strikes.

"Besides the issue of corruption, it was being abused. All over the world, people advised that states should no longer subsidise hydrocarbons, because when you subsidise hydrocarbons, those who gain are not the ordinary people."

"Quite a lot of Nigerians agree that subsidies must go," he said, adding that he expected to again try a gradual phase-out to soften the impact of price increases. "This time around, we will properly involve the people and give a robust timeline."

Nigeria's cities are expected to grow to 300 million people by 2050, the UN forecast in April. But Jonathan said he was wary of forecasts based on current trends and suggested that the country's population growth would eventually slow down.

"That (growth forecast) is based on the present statistics in terms of a pattern of reproduction, which may not continue that way," he said. "As more people become more educated and more aware, they tend to reduce the size of their families, which will slow down population growth."

FG to Earn N400bn from Sale of PHCN Companies

● NCP insists Benin Disco sale was transparent

Chika Ananze-Iwachuku

The Federal Government is expected to realise close to N400 billion from the divestment of 60 per cent equity in the 18 successor companies created from the unbundling of

the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), Chairman, Technical Committee of the National Council on Privatisation (NCP), Mr. Atelo Peterside, has said.

It also emerged yesterday that Southern Electricity

Distribution Company Ltd, one of the contenders for the Benin Distribution Company (Disco), submitted multiple commercial bids for the same disco, in clear violation of the Request for Proposals (RFPs) provided by the Bureau of

Public Enterprises (BPE) to all bidders.

Making the disclosure at a press conference in Lagos yesterday to refute allegations of corruption in the bid process made by Edo, Ekiti, Delta and Ondo State governors,

Peterside said it was regrettable that such a damaging allegation was being made at a time when the nation was undertaking its largest and most complex privatisation transaction ever.

He said the divestment

from the discos could raise proceeds close to N400 billion, which could come from senior citizens who most Nigerians have phenomenal respect for.

He added that he had the

Continued on page 6

THIS DAY

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TODAY'S WEATHER ☁️ ABUJA 22-28°C ☀️ MAIDUGURI 23-30°C ☁️ ENUGU 22-27°C ☁️ KANO 23-30°C ☁️ LAGOS 22-28°C ☁️ PORTHARCOURT 22-29°C

Sheriff, Senator in Blame Game over Arrested Boko Haram Chief

● SSS Grills Zanna for nine hours

Ike Abonyi, Onyebuchi Ezigbo and Dele Ogbodo in Abuja

The beleaguered senator representing Borno Central Senatorial District, Senator Ahmad Zanna, and former Governor of Borno State, Senator Ali Modu Sheriff, traded accusations yesterday over the arrest of a commander of Boko Haram, Shuaibu Bama.

The Joint Task Force (JTF) had last week announced the arrest of Bama in a serving senator's house in Maiduguri.

Although the JTF did not mention the name of the senator, Zanna, who acknowledged Bama as his

nephew, accused the JTF of distorting the facts of the arrest, stating that contrary to the claim, the Boko Haram chief was arrested in Sheriff's house.

The senator, who was grilled for about nine hours in Abuja by the State Security Service (SSS) over his alleged links with the Islamic sect, blamed Sheriff for his travails.

Zanna of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), defeated Sheriff, the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) candidate who contested to represent the senatorial district in the last general election.

Continued on page 6



SHARING HIS DAY WITH THE DISPLACED

Delta State Governor, Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan (middle), his wife, Roll, with a baby and its mother when the governor marked his 58th birthday with persons displaced by flood at their camp in Illah, Oshimili Local Government Area... yesterday

ARISE Magazine Names Cherie Blair, Okonjo-Iweala, Melinda Gates, 97 Others Supporters of Africa

Chiemello Ezeobi

Libarian President, Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf; Malawian President, Mrs. Joyce Banda; United States television personality, Oprah Winfrey; Coordinating Minister for the Economy and Minister of Finance, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala; Minister of Petroleum, Mrs. Diezani Alison-Maduekwe; wife of Microsoft Co-founder, Melinda Gates; and wife of former British Prime Minister, Mrs. Cherie Blair, have been named among the top 100 women supporting Africa and its peoples to develop their potentials.

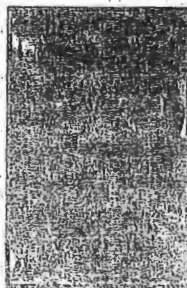
Their names topped the list of prominent women across the world, cutting across various professions - politicians, technocrats, authors, actresses, fashion models;

Journalists and entrepreneurs - in the current edition of *Arise Magazine*, a UK-based publication published by Leaders & Company, which also owns THISDAY Newspapers. Others who made the list include: Alek Wek, model and campaigner, from South Sudan; Angelina Jolie, the Academy Award winning actress based in the United States; Angélique Kidjo, a singer and campaigner from the Republic of Benin; Vice Chair, National Crisis Group, Mrs. Ayo Obe from Nigeria; Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, a Nigerian-born author resident in the US; former Prime Minister of Mali, Cissé Mariam Kaïdama Sidibé; a Nigerian actress, Ms. Genevieve Nnaji; and Nigeria's Hajia Bola Shagaya, founder and CEO, Bolmus Group International.

* See details on pages 12A - 12F



Cherie Blair



Okonjo-Iweala



Melinda Gates

PAGE SIX

SHERIFF, SENATOR IN BLAME GAME OVER ARRESTED BOKO HARAM CHIEF

Speaking with reporters before he left for the SSS headquarters, Zanna insisted that Bama was arrested in Sheriff's house and not his.

He also said that he was willing to lead a Federal Government delegation to open talks with the sectarian group, if only it would help to end the insecurity in the country.

He blamed Sheriff for his travails, saying the former governor had not forgiven him since he defeated him in the last senatorial election.

"My historic defeat of the former governor of Borno State in the person of Senator Ali Modu Sheriff has never gone down well with many persons and individuals in this country.

"Therefore, this latest campaign by the JTF in Borno State to deploy falsehood against me, even though they arrested Shaibu Bama in Sheriff's house.

"That they choose to tell the world that they arrested him in my house, is part of the campaign to rope me in by declaring me a Boko Haram member, financier, sympathiser, harbourer or even an activist so as to declare my seat vacant.

"This is being perpetrated to pave the way for Ali Modu Sheriff to by hook or crook come to the Senate, no matter what," Zanna added.

He also called for the immediate withdrawal of the JTF, adding: "What I'm trying to say about the JTF is that they are not doing things according to the rules of engagement and they are unnecessarily killing people more than Boko Haram, so what is the use of them being there?"

According to him, the constitution does not allow the JTF to kill people at will.

He said the JTF had never consulted with the leaders or elders of Borno to resolve the insecurity challenges posed by the insurgency of the Boko Haram sect.

"The JTF did not consult the leaders in Borno at any given time; they went there and started harassing the people instead of them to sit down from the outset to discuss with the people of Borno," he added.

He blamed the Boko Haram insurgency on the inability of leaders to separate politics from security.

Sheriff, in a rebuttal yesterday, refuted Zanna's claim that Bama was arrested in his (ex-governor's) house.

The former governor, in a statement by his Special Assistant, Umar Duhu, described Zanna's attempt to link him with his problem as laughable and mischievous.

He urged security agencies to fully investigate Zanna's links with Boko Haram and allegations of gunrunning.

"On this note, we want to call on the relevant security authorities to fully investigate the incident and Senator Zanna's possible links with Boko Haram, and also his hajj-by-road activities for which he was suspected to have used as a façade for the importation of arms and window for the training of terrorists," he said.

He said it was common knowledge in the state that Zanna deceived youths by saying that he would take them on pilgrimage by road only to send some of them for terrorist training.

"Some of the so-called pilgrims by road have been traced to terrorists' camps in Afghanistan and Syria, and not Saudi Arabia, their preferred destination.

"It is very much on record that 27 of such pilgrims are still missing up till date," he said.

Sheriff wondered what Zanna's nephew would be doing in the house of a man he said was his political rival.

He further said that contrary to Zanna's claims in the media that he had parted ways with the suspect, "we can authoritatively confirm that his nephew, Bama, was still his associate up to the time of his arrest."

At the SSS headquarters in Abuja, Zanna revealed how he gave his aides N1.5 million to buy Sallah rams for the insurgents and their threat to attack him unless he gave them N10 million.

THISDAY gathered last night that Zanna arrived at the SSS headquarters in Abuja at about 1 pm where he was processed for interrogation.

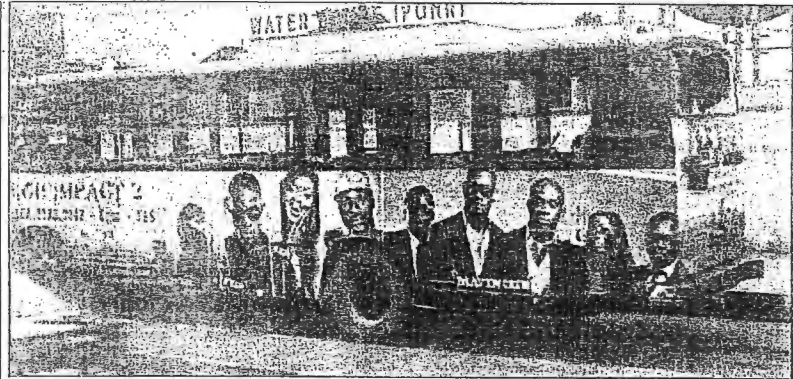
He gave further insight into his relationship with the dreaded Islamist sect and reiterated his denial that Bama was arrested in his Maiduguri home.

He told his interrogators that he gave N1.5 million for Sallah rams to the sect members following their threat to attack him.

He, however, added that when the insurgents accosted one of his aides at gunpoint to know how much he gave him, he lied to them that he (senator) gave out N1 million.

He explained that when they took his aide to his house for a search, they retrieved N250,000 and left a message with the aide for him that he should provide them N10 million or they would come for him.

The senator, who was released at about 10 pm, is expected to report back at the SSS headquarters by



RAGE OF THE CYCLISTS

One of the buses vandalised by protesting commercial motorcyclists in Lagos... yesterday

FG TO EARN N400BN FROM SALE OF PHCN COMPANIES

mandate of Vice-President Namadi Sambo, who is the NCP chairman, to speak on the issue alongside the Chairman of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), Dr. Sam Amadi, and the BPE Director-General, Ms. Bola Onagorunwa, revealing that of all the consortiums that participated in the bid opening, Southern Electricity was the only one that submitted multiple commercial bids for the same disco.

The governors of Delta, Edo and Ekiti States had at a joint news conference in Abuja last week, vehemently rejected the choice of Vigeo Power Consortium as the preferred bidder for the Benin Disco and described the bid processes organised by the BPE as "highly fraudulent, not transparent and representing some racketeering interests."

Part of their contention was that Vigeo lacked the necessary technical competence and capacity to run the Benin Disco.

Specifically, the Governor of Edo State, Adams Oshiomhale, had claimed that the process was rigged to favour Vigeo as Southern Electricity scored 898 points to Vigeo's 537 points during the technical evaluation of the bids and ought to have emerged the preferred bidder.

However, Peterside disclosed that Southern Electricity's envelope was discovered to have contained two different commercial bids, both of which were signed by one Mr. Matthew Edehvie.

He said: "The first bid was dubbed the 'primary bid', while the other was dubbed an 'alternate bid'. This was a clear contravention of the RFP.

"But we did not make a big issue of this on live TV because both the primary and the alternate bids fell below the bid submitted by Vigeo and so neither bid would alter Southern Consortium's ranking.

"Instead, this matter was brought to the attention of the Technical Committee of NCP, which considered the breach and has made recommendations to the NCP."

Electricity comprises private sector companies that are not owned directly or indirectly by the governments of Delta, Edo, Ekiti and Ondo States.

Responding to the allegation of lack of transparency, Peterside noted that Southern Electricity had been in the race for Benin Disco alongside other bidders since September 2011, when they received the RFPs for the privatisation process.

He explained that the consortium had ample opportunity to participate in the various investors' forums that BPE held to communicate with potential bidders and obtain feedback, pointing out that the consortium never made any allegations of lack of transparency until after the race had been run via the commercial bid opening ceremony, which was televised live on both NTA and AIT.

Giving a detailed rundown of the process, Peterside explained that during the commercial bid opening, the representative of Southern Electricity was asked to examine and confirm that the envelope that contained its commercial proposal was intact, and he did so on live TV before the envelope was opened.

The same process, he said, was observed for every other bidder at the event and that as the loss reduction targets for each bidder were read out, they were captured on the multimedia screen, and immediately ranked in descending order for everyone to see.

"Before the bids were opened, the ground rules of the bid opening were read out and circulated and it was made clear to all that the ground rules were in accordance with the RFP, which all the bidders were given the opportunity to comment upon and accept before they submitted their technical and commercial proposals," he said.

On the Aggregate Technical, Commercial and Collection (ATC&C) loss reduction targets, Peterside stated that the privatisation strategy that the NCP chose for the discos was aimed at addressing the identified problems within the distribution segment of the

were told from the outset that they would compete on the basis of a trajectory of technical, commercial and collection loss improvements for the first five years of operations.

The method, he added, was built around the Multi Year Tariff Order (MYTO) 2 issued by the NERC.

"It is important to emphasise that all the bidders who participated in the commercial bid opening had obtained scores in excess of 75 per cent when the technical evaluations were being scored some weeks ago.

"It is also imperative to point out that the NCP approved the privatisation strategy for the discos, based on the use of ATC&C loss reduction proposals as a basis for core investor selection, as far back as June 11, 2010.

"The advertisements that ran in December 2010 soliciting for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from prospective core investors emphasised that the BPE would use this strategy.

"So Southern Electricity knew the rules of the race before it joined the contest," he said.

He revealed that Southern Electricity did not raise any concerns about the use of this strategy even when the BPE solicited feedback from prospective investors about the bid process and the industry and transaction documents last year.

Responding to allegations that Vigeo Power lacked the technical competence and financial capacity to manage the power asset, Peterside explained that three evaluating teams were formed to evaluate the technical bids and that the bids were assigned to the teams by balloting to ensure that no evaluator had prior knowledge of which bid he/she would evaluate.

He said some of the criteria evaluated were: Experience in operation and maintenance of distribution companies; Experience in developing countries; Technical and investment plan; Management and staffing—human resources; and Financing plan and ability to raise finance.

He said both Southern Electricity and Vigeo had competent technical partners from India, had met the RFP requirements, which specified that in order to have the right

commercial proposals opened, each bidder must have a tangible net worth of a minimum of \$100 million and competent technical partners.

Besides, he said officials of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) and Directorate of State Security Services (DSSS) observed the entire process from bid submission to the conclusion of evaluation.

"On the allegation of Vigeo having little knowledge about the environment in which it wishes to operate, this is not and could not logically be a requirement of the RFP since there has never been a distribution license in Nigeria apart from the Federal Government-owned distribution companies.

"In any event, the information at our disposal indicates that GUMCO, a member of the Vigeo Consortium, has participated in both the Revenue Cycle Management and National Piped Metering programmes since 2006.

"It also introduced prepaid metering and billing to the Benin Disco. It started from Benin City and later extended its operations to Warri, Asaba, Ondo and Ekiti.

"It is worth noting that none of the members of the Southern Electricity has such a record," he said.

On the Benin Disco comprising states that had invested in the power sector, Peterside explained that in recognition of efforts of states and local governments' contribution in the power sector, the balance of 40 per cent state will be owned by the federal and state governments within that disco territories, through a special purpose vehicle (SPV) to be created by the states, as well as the staff of PHCN.

According to him, the exact percentage that the states will get will vary depending on the valuation of their previous investments, adding that the valuation will be determined by the industry regulator, NERC, working in collaboration with the state governments.

"In a nutshell, the state governments will be equity partners with any preferred bidder for a disco which operates in their territory," he added.

TOP GAINERS	NGH	NGH	%
CHINTEK	0.29	322	9.9
CUSTOMERS	0.08	148	57
EVANS&S	0.06	126	5
FORTPAINTS	0.08	300	4.9
CLITEK	0.06	141	4.4
TOP LOSERS	NGH	NGH	%
FUSION	0.08	115	6.5
AIKO	0.04	0.66	57
IPWA	0.03	0.61	4.6
AGILENTS	0.15	0.61	4.4
CAPPLC	0.17	300	3.7

RPE Headline Price: NGN2.00
 Volume: 278,744 million shares
 Value: N2,702.153m
 Deals: 4,552
 As at yesterday 22/10/12
 See details on page 42

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N150

• I hired those who killed my husband — *Detained wife*
 • His ghost is haunting me, she laments
 —P.64

COLUMN
PINIJASON

Time for sober reflection



•P17

Boko Haram strikes again

BY NDAHI MARAMA & DEMOLA AKINYEMI

M AIDUGURI Islamic sect, Boko Haram yesterday killed three traders at Maiduguri International Market and Timber Market on Baga Road, bringing the number of those killed within 48 hours in the area to six. On Sunday there was an explosion on the same

Continues on Page 5

• 3 shot dead as govt shuts int'l market

• Lagos LG polls: ACN members protest alleged imposition of candidates



LISA OF ONDO @ 77 — From left: Oba Victor Kiladejo, Jilo III, Osemawe of Ondoland; Oba Oluwade Sijuwade, Ooni of Ife; Oba F. Arolo, Owa of Idare and Chief Bayo Akinnola, Lisa of Ondoland at the 77th birthday of Chief Akinnola held yesterday in Ondo, Ondo State. Photo: Kehinde Gbodamosi. See more pix and story on Pgs 8 & 67

• Britain created a society that would fight itself — *Ofeimun*
 —P.60

Mr & Mrs

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NEWS

3 shot dead as Boko Haram strikes again

Continues On Page 20

load which claimed two lives while an Igbo butcher was also shot dead in broad daylight at the market.

Following the latest killing by the sect, the market has been shut indefinitely.

It was gathered that the market, which attracts traders from neighbouring countries like Niger, Chad and Cameroun Republic, has now become a target of attacks from the sect following what the sect considered Governor Kashim's provocative statement when he declared in an interview he granted Associated Press last week that the worst was over after a top commander of the sect was arrested by security agents.

Those who were killed yesterday were Mallam Tumba Michika, a tea seller; a patent medicine seller and another passer by. They were killed at the teashop by two suspected Boko Haram gunmen with Kalashnikov rifle hidden under their flowing robes.

The state Commissioner of Police, Chief Simeon Midenda, confirmed the killing to newsmen on Monday, saying, "I have received reports of the multiple attacks and killings this afternoon, where a tea seller, Mallam Tumba Michika was serving customers in the morning, when suspected Boko Haram gunmen fired several shots at his chest and head, while a passer-by

was also shot dead.

"The other report I received was the killing of a patent medicine seller in the same Zajari ward last night, where the same number of suspects attacked the patent medicine store and killed the proprietor, without snatching any of the day's sales from the cash register."

Spokesman of the Joint Task Force (JTF), Lt. Col. Hassan Mohammed who was contacted on phone said: "We just received reports of the attacks and killings this afternoon. Our men and officers have rushed to the affected area to ascertain whether or not there are casualties from the serial attacks and shootings... by the suspected gunmen that attacked one of our patrol vehicles on Independence Anniversary Day on Saturday."

Khadi of Sharia Court of Appeal escapes death

Meanwhile, a khadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal in Ilorin, Kwara State, Saliu Mohammed narrowly escaped death Sunday night following gun attack by yet to be identified gunmen.

The victim has reportedly been admitted at an undisclosed hospital in the town where he was said to be responding to treatment.

Vanguard reliably gathered that the gunmen invaded the residence of the judge

at Fate Road of the Government Reservation Area (GRA) in the town at about 8:pm where they allegedly attacked him in the presence of some of his family members. The gunmen, after the attack left before the arrival of security operatives.

A neighbor who craved anonymity in an interview with Vanguard described the attack as curious because the gunmen attacked only the residence of the judge among other residential buildings in the area.

The attack has thrown

the entire GRA into pandemonium, as some residents were said to have relocated from the area temporarily. Some landlords have therefore pleaded with the governor, Alhaji Abdulfatah Ahmed and the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Peter Gana, to beef up security in the area.

The gunmen were said to had shot the khadi on his thigh and hands indicating that the intention was not to kill him. It could not be ascertained yet if the victim's attackers took away any valuable when they left the residence.

Lagos LG polls: ACN members protest alleged imposition of candidates

BY EMMANUEL AZIKEN, POLITICAL EDITOR, OLASUNKANMI AKONI & OKEFANYI OKOLE

LAGOS — PROTESTERS in Lagos, yesterday, defied an early morning downpour to protest nominations by the Action Congress of Nigeria, ACN, for the forthcoming local government elections.

Yesterday's demonstrations centred on Shomolu which followed earlier protests in Apapa, Amuwo Odofin, Ejigbo, Orjade, Isolo, Lagos Island and at the state party secretariat at Ogba.

The protests were inspired by criticisms that majority of the candidates nominated by the party for chairmanship and councillor positions in the council polls scheduled for October 22 were incumbents who were imposed.

The demonstrations also followed several petitions by aggrieved aspirants and their supporters and stakeholders that some of the party's candidates performed very poorly and did not deserve a second term in office.

The party conducted a central primary two weeks ago at the party's State Secretariat at Acme Road, Ogba. However, two days to the primary elections, the Elders Council of the party had at a meeting in the residence of a revered senior figure in the party resolved that all incumbents who performed creditably should be returned to office for a second term.

The resolution of the elders' council held sway after the party primaries as some of the

incumbents who were beaten were subsequently enlisted in the party's nomination list released penultimate Monday.

Only three of the party's incumbent chairmen were dropped in the list. Those dropped were chairmen of Surulere, the home base of Governor Babatunde Fashola; Agbado-Okeodo and Ifako/Ijaye.

The publicity secretary of the state chapter of the party, Mr. Joe Igboke, however, rebuffed any schism in the party saying yesterday that the demonstrations were part of the democratic process. He nevertheless insisted that the party has the right to reward those who have worked hard for it and have been faithful to its philosophy.

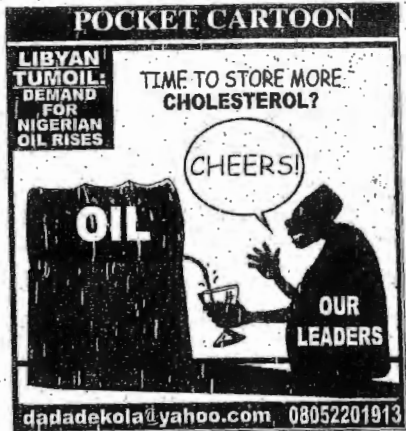
Yesterday's protest in Somolu was against the nomination of the incumbent Chairman of the council, Mr Gbolahan Bagostowe for a second term.

The protesters carried different placards and sang as they marched through some streets in the area and vowed not to allow the chairman to return to office.

The leader of the protesters, Miss Amen Ehis, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that Bagostowe had done virtually nothing during his tenure, which was ending.

She said that the chairman only made claims to executing some projects in the media but that such projects never existed.

There are no good roads; no functional health centres and no boreholes while market women face a lot of problems in the hands of local government staff, who demand so much



Contacted, Spokesman of Kwara State Police command, Dabo Ezekiel confirmed the attack, saying that they were

still investigating. "We are aware and are presently investigating. No arrest has been made yet", Ezekiel said.

from the traders," she said.

Bagostowe, however, told NAN that the protest was sponsored by people who wanted to mar his image ahead of the polls.

He said that he had demonstrated his stewardship and had projects to show for it and as such, he had won the confidence of his party for a second term bid.

"I have demonstrated my stewardship with many projects that I have done within the last three years in office and my party, the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN), has endorsed my candidature.

"The party hierarchy said that those first timers that performed should be allowed to contest for the second term," Bagostowe said.

He said that he built and reconstructed nine primary schools out of the 18 in the local government area, including Agunbiade Primary School, Olaoluwa Primary School and Baptist Primary School.

Bagostowe said that he also built a public health centre in the Akoka area, which offered 24 hours service, while two others were nearing completion in other areas of the local government.

He said that he also built boreholes and tarred roads in many areas contrary to the claims of the protesters.

Opponents of some of the nominated incumbents have also sought to rake up allegations of irregularities in the qualification of some of the nominees. Petitions have been directed to the national leader of the party, Atinuju Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the national legal adviser of the party, Muiz Banire both of whom are from

Lagos State and wield great influence in the party.

Stakeholder under the aegis of Concerned Citizens and Residents of Ojo LGA and Otto Awori Local Council Development Area in their own petition directed to Tinubu raised multiple allegations against the chairmen, Hon. Adeginka Durosinni and Hon Kayode Bolaji.

Reacting to the renewed protests, Mr. Igboke told Vanguard yesterday: "It is nothing to worry about, the little political disagreement in Somolu LGA, considering the fact that it is just one out of the 20 LGA and 37 Local Council Development Area, LCDAs.

"ACN will continue to insist that noise, disagreements and protests are part of democratic process. Democracy is a noisy process and in the midst of all these noises you achieve consensus.

"The problem becomes a little bit cumbersome when you have to manage about 20 eminently qualified persons jostling for one position. But do not forget that sometimes you how to political solution in resolving democratic debacle.

"Sometimes, the leadership is permitted to reward committed foot soldiers that have laboured through thick and thin to promote and project the philosophy of the party.

It will be recalled that residents of Isolo Local Government Area last week staged a similar protest against the incumbent council boss in the area. The Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission, LASIEC is to commence the validation of candidates submitted to it from today to October 11.

TAKE HEART

BY ELLA RANDLE

WHEN we lose sight of the beauty of life, the constant struggles may leave a person tired and hollow, but if we expect the beautiful, our heart must be rekindled every moment with rays of lights and wisdom. This inspiring verses of Desiderata is like an encounter with wisdom which awakens in us, new hopes and dreams...

"Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others for they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Be yourself. Especially, do not feign affection. Take kindly to the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be, and whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world."

Vanguard

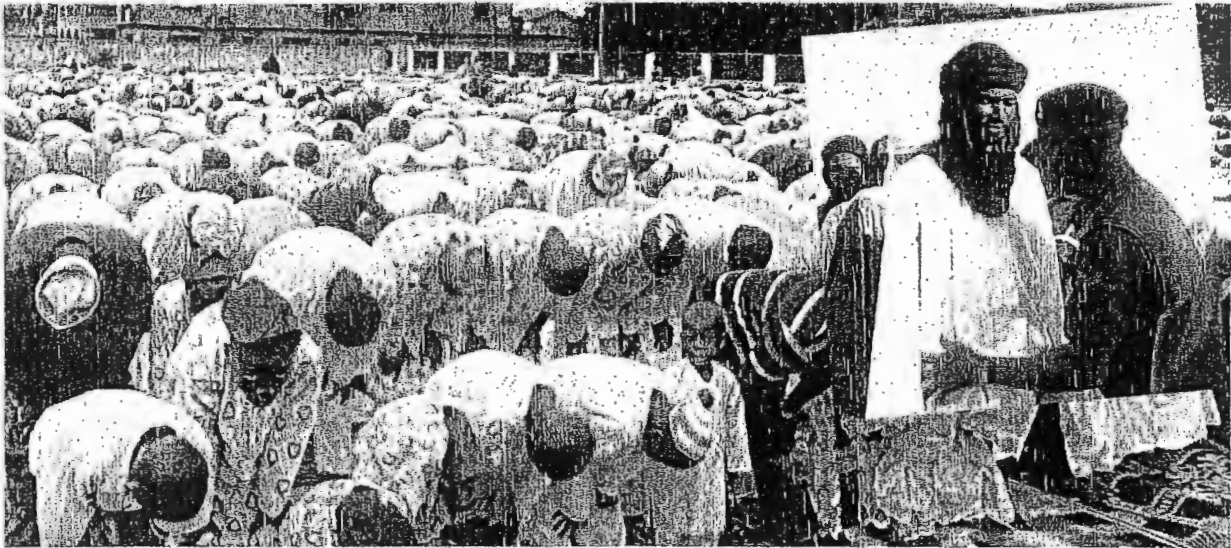
towards a better life for the people

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2011

N150



EID-EL-KABIR—Cross section of muslims praying in Ikorodu, Lagos yesterday. Inset: Worshippers queue for search by police at the National Praying Ground, Abuja.

More bombings coming—Boko Haram

- UN, Pope, others condemn latest attacks
- US embassy bars citizens from major hotels in Abuja

By EMMANADOZIE, Crime Editor, CLIFFORD NDUJHE, SAM EYOBORA, ALBERT AKPOR, CHARLES KUMOLU, VICTORIA OJEME & OLAYINKA LATONA with agency reports



INSTEAD OF YOU TO APOLOGIZE FOR COMING HOME AT THE LONELY HOUR, YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT YOU'RE THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY. WELL, I'M TIRED OF BECOMING THE MAINGUARD OF THE FAMILY.

ABUJA—ISLAMIC Asect, Boko Haram, which has claimed responsibility for weekend's bomb blasts and gun attacks in Damaturu, Yobe
Continues on Page 5



OCHEROME NNANNA
People & Politics

Exporters to claim refund as US extends GSP

See Financial Vanguard

Create regions; abolish states, LGAs (2) —P.42

mama Tomato

eVa
Tomato Paste
...mama's cooking magic

NEWS

More bombings coming—Boko Haram

Continues from Page 1

State capital, that claimed more than 150 lives so far has threatened to carry out more attacks. This came even as the US Embassy in Nigeria has issued an emergency warning to its citizens in the country to avoid luxury hotels in Abuja which may be the next targets of the sect.

Also, police authorities in Borno State said that members of the Boko Haram sect carried out the attacks to show that they were still relevant after their plans to bomb strategic places in Borno State were thwarted by the police.

This was just as the Nigerian Red Cross said that the death toll was expected to rise as the United Nations and the Pope have joined in the condemnation of the attack.

A spokesman for the Islamist armed group, using the name Abul-Qaqa, who spoke hours after witnesses reported "scenes of carnage" vowed that "more attacks are on the way."

He said in an interview with newsmen: "We will continue attacking federal government formations until security forces stop their excesses on our members and vulnerable civilians."

Suleiman Lawal, the police commissioner in Yobe State, told Al Jazeera a suicide bomber drove a vehicle appar-

ently laden with explosives into a building: Lawal said the attack killed 53 people but he did not disclose how many among the casualties were security officials.

He said: "The explosives rocked the building and there were casualties. Two of the suicide bombers perished in the bomb."

While insisting the group was not gaining an upper hand, Lawal vowed that it would be crushed. He said: "My strategy is a security strategy (that) I cannot disclose on air. So as they (Boko Haram) are not disclosing their security strategy, I don't think it is safe for me to tell the whole world what I am doing." The violence followed a series of attacks reported in the neighbouring cities of Maiduguri and Potiskum on Friday afternoon.

Spokesman of the Nigerian Red Cross, Ibrahim Bulama, said yesterday that "there's that fear that something might possibly happen again," even as he said the death toll is expected to rise as local clinics and hospitals tabulate the casualty figures from Friday's attacks in Damaturu.

News agencies, quoting officials, said after the attack on the building, armed men went through Damaturu, blowing up a bank and attacking at least three police stations and five churches, leav-

ing behind their rubbles. People began leaving their homes on Saturday morning, after seeing the destruction, which included military and police vehicles burnt by the armed men, with the charred corpses of the drivers.

US Embassy warns citizens of looming Boko Haram attacks

The United States Embassy in Nigeria, weekend, warned its citizens to avoid three luxury hotels frequented by foreigners in Abuja, which the embassy said may be the next target of the deadly Islamic sect. A statement from the US embassy said they had information that the Boko Haram sect "may plan to attack several locations and hotels in Abuja." The statement did not disclose when the attacks would occur, but said: "All U.S. government personnel have been instructed to avoid these locations, and previously scheduled events have been cancelled."

The sect which is seeking the islamisation of Nigeria and in the interim, revenge for their slain leader and fighters, killed a police inspector in Maiduguri on Sunday. Gunmen, believed to be the sect's fighters, stopped the officer's car at gunpoint, as he came near a mosque to pray with his family, and ordered the family away before he was shot to death. Borno police commissioner, Simeon Midenda, who confirmed the incident, said the sect gunman allowed the slain inspector's family to drive the car away.

Police authorities in Borno State have said that members of Boko Haram sect were flexing muscles to show that they were still relevant after their plans to bomb strategic places in Borno State were thwarted following the major arrests made by the Police in the state.

Speaking over the phone with Vanguard, yesterday, the Borno State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Simeon Midenda said the members of Boko Haram attacked JTF headquarters at Pomppoma ward of the metropolis out of frustration. Though Midenda said he could not speak for JTF, he, however, stated: "JTF is an outfit of its

own. But the issue is that these people did what they did out of frustration. They did it to show that they are still relevant after we swooped on their hideout and made arrests which helped in thwarting the major onslaught they earlier planned for the state. In fact, we expected that they would react to show that they are still relevant. I don't know why they decided to go to JTF. It is not JTF that thwarted their plans, it is the police; I assure you that we are equal to the task and we remain undaunted in our pursuit for peace in Borno State."

It will be recalled that few days to the Sallah Day celebrations, the Police in Borno arrested the ring leader of a notorious armed robbery gang after an operation in a first generation bank in Maiduguri. The robbery gang killed a Police Corporal and made away with about N21.9 million. The arrest



paid off as the ringleader confessed to the Police that he and his gang members' mission was to raise funds for an operation to be carried out in Maiduguri during the Sallah Day.

The police commissioner explained that during a search conducted in the suspect's house, one SMG Rifle (French made) with 104 rounds of live ammunition, empty ammunition chain, two Improvised Explosive Devices, otherwise called

bombs made in Damaturu, the Yobe state capital, two pairs of military uniform, three empty ammunition boxes, three gallons of highly inflammable ABRO liquid, were recovered. He added that with this arrest and recovery, the Command has averted what could have been described as a major disaster that was to befall Maiduguri residents and mar peaceful celebration of the Sallah.

UN, Pope, others condemn latest violent attacks

THE U.N. Security Council, weekend, described the attacks in Damaturu and Maiduguri as "criminal and unjustifiable" and asked members to help Nigeria to bring those responsible to justice. A statement on behalf of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for "an end to all violence in the area," while offering sympathy for the victims.

Pope Benedict XVI, yesterday, appealed for an end to all violence, saying it only increases problems, sowing hatred and division even among the faithful. He told tourists in St. Peter's Square that he was following with apprehension the news from Nigeria.

A source close to the Yobe State CAN, who for obvious reasons would want to remain anonymous, told Vanguard, yesterday, that nine churches were affected in the series of attack, adding that five were burnt down completely while four others were vandalized.

He listed the affected churches as the Assemblies of God Church, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Living Faith Church, a.k.a. Winners Chapel, EYN Church, Cherubim & Seraphim Church, Anglican Church, and two churches belonging to ECWA - one for the Hausa

audience and the other known as Good News. The source added that schools and other institutions belonging to different Christian denominations were torched just as individual houses and businesses such as GLAD Schools, African Mission Centre and a house belonging to a man popularly known as 'Winners' were not spared.

The source said that Christians gathered yesterday morning at the grounds of the affected churches to ruminate over the attacks and those who could muster enough courage simply managed to worship God under trees. He said there was still palpable fear in the state where a dusk to dawn curfew has already been imposed.

Yobe Attacks: It's time for security chiefs to act - ACN

The Action Congress of Nigeria, ACN, said, yesterday, it was horrified at the scale of the terror attacks, saying it was time for security chiefs to toe the path of honour by resigning or be kicked out.

National Action Council, NAC, described the attacks as inhuman wastage that should not go unpunished, lamenting that the killings had

turned the 2011 Eid-El-Kabir celebrations into the deadliest, bloodiest human sacrifice and a period of mourning. It urged a speedy convocation of a Sovereign National Conference (SNC) to save the country from the edge of the precipice.

In a statement, ACN National Publicity Secretary, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, said it was now apparent that those saddled with ensuring the security of lives and property in the country were grossly incapable of doing so, hence the need to shake up the security agencies and put more capable men and women in charge.

ACN said for a country not at war, the death of 53 people - as claimed by the police - is enough reason for any President to be concerned enough to take an urgent action to rectify the situation.

On his part, NAC National Chairman, Dr Olapade Agoro, said the killings had undermined the nation's security operatives and intelligence and confirmed that the security situation in the country called for urgent and long lasting solution to the myriads of challenges confronting the country.

TAKE HEART BYELLA RANDIE

Today is your day to paint life in bold colours, set today's rhythm with your heart-drum, walk today's march with courage, and create today as your celebration of life. - Jonathan Lockwood Huie

It is a known reality that when special people come into our circumference they teach us how to live better, they make us really see how beautiful and wonderful our world can really be.

Over the years I have listened to an anthology of artistic collection of sounds. Irrespective of the style and genre, harmony is key to beautiful music. A chord progression is centered on this principle and this can be likened to harmony in nature and mankind. When we are in tune and balanced with self we virtually see the colours of rainbows everywhere and our perspective is ever expanding to embrace better thoughts and actions. Music has a therapeutic effect and we can attune our lives with beautiful music on a daily basis. Sound is the embodiment of harmonies which can open ones heart to more love and higher awareness.

In the words of Helen Keller, "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing. Self-pity is our worst enemy and if we yield to it, we can never do anything wise in this world. Your success and happiness lies in you.

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart. The marvelous richness of human experience would lose something of rewarding joy if there were no limitations to overcome. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties.

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TUESDAY

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N150

NOVEMBER 8, 2011

2012 Budget: BPP raises alarm over implementation

Senate decries loss of N3trn to corruption

Stand firm against sodomy



Don't panic, FG reassures

BY OKEY NDIRIBE, KINGSLEY OMONOBI, BALAJIYA & VICTORIA OJEME

- IG deploys 50 APCs, bomb disposal squads in Abuja
- 11 policemen, 1 soldier, others died in Yobe bomb blast — CP
- US Warning: Abuja hotels still bubble — P.6

ABUJA — FOLLOWING the renewed threat by Boko Haram sect to carry out more bomb attacks in Abuja after weekend

bloodbath in Dan-turu, Yobe State capital which claimed more than 150 lives, the Federal Government yesterday asked members of the public not to panic assuring that security agencies have put in place adequate measures to secure lives and property. Government assurance came just as the Yobe State Commissioner of Police, Mr Sulaiman Lawal released details of the casualty suffered by

Continues On Page 5



STONING OF SATAN—Muslim pilgrims throw pebbles at pillars during the "Jamarat" ritual, the stoning of Satan, in Mina near the holy city of Mecca, Sunday. Photo: AFP



Mama's Recipe

eva

Tomato Paste

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Boko Haram: Don't panic, FG reassures

Continues from Page 1
members of the security agencies in the attack.

The United States Embassy in Nigeria on Monday warned its citizens to steer clear of three major hotels in Abuja claiming it had intelligence report that the sect was planning to attack the hotels.

The National Security Adviser, General Owoyè Azazi (rtd) in a statement yesterday said the Federal Government has put in place adequate measures to secure three top hotels in the Federal Capital city suspected to be targets of the fundamentalists.

The statement reads: "The attention of the Federal Government has been drawn to a publication making the rounds in the media concerning planned attacks on three major hotels in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja. Expectedly, the publication is eliciting unhealthy public anxiety and generating avoidable tension. The Federal Government wants to advise members of the public that it would continue to ensure the security of lives and property under its jurisdiction despite the unfortunate events in Maiduguri and Yobe over the weekend."

Azazi stated that the current threat of attack on the three hotels in Abuja

was not news, stressing that for over three months, the security services have taken proactive measures to protect the designated critical facilities and others.

The NSA urged members of the public not to worry about the report but to go about their normal duties and businesses without fear and be assured that security agencies have put in place adequate counter measures to secure lives and property."

Situation under control

Speaking to newsmen on the issue yesterday, the Assistant Director (Press) of the State Security Service, SSS, Marilyn Ogar said the present situation was not beyond the security agencies, even as she admitted that there were internal security challenges to contend with.

She said: "We have internal security challenges and it is nothing new. And if you ask where did this information come from, it is basically from the internet, which subsequently somebody sent as an e-mail and we thought that had been addressed. I don't see any problem that is beyond the Nigerian security agencies. Of

course, we have deployed men and beefed up security everywhere.

"We had said that on 26th or 27th of October, we have had text messages making the rounds that some targets were going to be bombed in Abuja. In my subsequent press release on the 2nd of November, we did say that we traced those that sent the message to a secondary school in Kagan in Niger State. Students of 18 and 17 years and of course, may be out of mischief, because they said there was an advert in the national daily that said anybody who has information concerning Boko Haram should send this information to a particular number.

"May be because they were idle, they decided to play pranks with it. So you find out that Nigerians always use various security challenges we have as instrument may be to frighten or create unnecessary fear and panic within the society. There is nothing that is above the security agencies", she stated.

On America and Canada's messages to their citizens, she said: "If America sent out that message it is nothing too strange. It is not because our country is disintegrating. If Canada has followed suit, there is nothing new to it. We have had wonderful Sallah though with some pockets of crisis here and there but they are not issues that we have not been able to contain."

Pointing out that there is no nation without its security challenges, she said: "Even the US has security challenges and I don't think they will say it is beyond their security agencies. It is not right to pass judgement."

Meanwhile, the Inspector General of Police, Hafiz Ringim yesterday directed the release of 50 Armoured Personnel Carriers (APC's), Police Patrol vans and the deployment of both plain clothes and armed police personnel in and around the FCT.

"Specifically, the Armoured Personnel Carriers have been deployed to such hotels as Transcorp Hilton, Sheraton, Nicoll Luxury and NANET Hotels. Aside the hotels,

Vanguard observed that security has been heavily beefed up in and around the FCT with such important national assets like the NNPC towers, CBN headquarters, Three Arms Zone, NTA, and Radio House, getting increased security presence.

It was further gathered from a senior Police source that Armoured Personnel Carriers, Anti-Terrorist as well as Bomb Disposal squads have been deployed to all the exit and entry points in the federal capital territory with a view to checkmating activities of the Islamic terrorist group.

Vanguard also gathered that the Inspector General of Police has directed all Police Commands in the country to remain at red



alert and to also dispatch plain clothes security personnel in and around the city centers as intelligence indicate that the attacks in Yobe state may be the first of many others, planned by the group.

Meantime, Yobe State Commissioner of Police, Mr Sulaiman Lawal yesterday gave the

breakdown of casualty suffered by security agencies in last weekend's attacks by Boko Haram in the state. Apart of civilian victims, he said 11 policemen, one soldier, one customs official, one Federal Road Safety Commission Commissioner, one marshal and an officer of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps were killed in the attack.

2012 Budget: BPP raises alarm over implementation

• Senate decries loss of N3trn to corruption

BY INALEGWU SHAIKU

ABUJA — DIRECTOR General of Bureau of Public Procurement, Engr. Emeka Eze, has raised fresh concern over the 2012 budget saying it may fail due to the infiltration of the budget with projects that have no designs, just as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Federal Character and inter-governmental Affairs, Senator Dahiru Kuta disclosed that Nigeria loses about N3 trillion to corruption in public offices carried out through ghost workers. The Federal Government had at an extra-ordinary meeting in Abuja approved the 2012 budget framework based on \$75 per barrel oil price.

At a meeting presided over by President Goodluck Jonathan, the budget expected to be submitted to the National Assembly for consideration any time from now, is aimed at completing the about 6000 federal government projects across the country. The budget would lay emphasis on security, power, works, agriculture, housing, education, health, and other flagship projects.

The projection for the country's crude oil production for 2012 is put at 2.4 million barrels per day and this is expected to increase to 2.6 million barrels by 2015. No sooner was the budget framework approved than the government informed the National Assembly of its intention to reduce the benchmark which it initially fixed for \$75 per barrel of crude oil in the 2012 appropriation bill to \$70 per barrel to enable it generate enough fund to finance the budget. While speaking during an interactive session with members of the House Committee on Finance, the Minister of State, Finance, Alhaji Yerima Lawal Ngama Ngama, said that the 2012 Budget was before premised on \$75 per barrel of crude oil, but was pruned down to \$70 per barrel, while the Exchange rate was fixed at \$1 to N153.

The Central Bank has also indicated its intention to devalue the naira by adjusting its exchange rate from the present N150 to the dollar to between N155 to N156. These developments have cast a cloud of uncertainty in the making of the 2012 budget. Eze raised the new

concern while briefing the Senate Committee on Federal Character an inter-governmental Affairs during a oversight tour of the agency. He feared that the inflation of the budget which has been the trend over the years may again lead to poor implementation of the 2012 budget which eventually passed by the National Assembly adding that projects a being rushed into the 2012 budget with studies and designs.

According to him, "I also noticed that most times, projects are rush into budgets with necessary studies and designs. As we are about to prepare 2012 budget a lot of people want to a projects into the budget. "We have realized it since the time of the Shagari, once you take decision and you award a contract without these two things will happen either the project will be done, or if it is going to be done, it will require endless augmentation because you have not had enough time to study and do designs. "In some cases, project will last for years. We have to money for it appropriation."

TAKE HEART

BY BELLA RANDEB

A person with 'Ubuntu' is open and available to others, affirming of others and does not feel threatened that others are able and good. For he/she has a proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he/she belongs in the greater whole... -Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

If you're seeking closeness with the Divine Essence, love everyone: Whether in their presence or absence, see only their good. If you want to be as clear and refreshing as the breath of the morning breeze and like the sun, have nothing but warmth and light for everyone. These pearls of wisdom beautifully expressed by Shaik Ahl, is a reminder that love is the key to life and one must endeavour to love at all times. If we truly accept ourselves for who we are, we can easily accept others, and will find it easier to forgive others and let go of grudges, and then love can enter our hearts and healing can occur.

In reality we are letting go of unnecessary baggage, the results of stress and even illnesses, and we can be better physically, emotionally, and mentally for we are able to spring clean the body and mind to be healthier beings in all aspects of our lives. Remember, you do not have to meet certain qualifications to be loved.

In the words of Iyanla Vanzant: "The only thing that is required of you is to be who you are and feel good about it. Love is not even yours to give nor can it be withheld from you. Anyone who expects more from you has a great deal to learn about love". Love is the omnipresent flow of life. It is every breath you take. Love is you.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2011

N150

Amnesty Int'l asks Shell to pay \$1bn for Ogoni clean-up

• Fresh hope rises for Lagos/Ibadan expressway

• Uduaghan, Elechi, Ahmed know fate today



Boko Haram 'll fade away soon — JONATHAN

- Says opponents want to derail govt over fuel subsidy
- Boko Haram attacks police post, kills two
- US security alert: FG moves to avert occurrence

BY EMMA UJAH, DANIEL IDONOR & NDAHI MARAMA

ABUJA — PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan, yesterday, described the terrorist attacks by the Boko Haram Islamic sect as "a temporary setback" which will soon be a thing of the past. This came on

Continues on Page 5



ECONOMIC SUMMIT: From right: Chairman Board of Nigeria Economic Summit Group, Mr Foluso Phillips; President Goodluck Jonathan, Minister of National Planning, Dr. Shamsudeen Usman and Minister of Finance Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala at the opening ceremony of 17th Nigeria Economic Summit yesterday in Abuja. Photo: Gbemina Olumikan.

Mr & Mrs

YOU WERE ASKED WHO IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD AND YOU STILL GAVE A STUPID ANSWER LIKE "I DON'T KNOW" WHILE I WAS STANDING VERY CLOSE TO YOU. YOU WILL EXPLAIN BETTER AT HOME!

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Tomato Paste

NEWS

Boko Haram 'll soon fade away —Jonathan

Continues from Page 1

the heels of the nation's quest for direct foreign investment which is the high point of the 2011 Economic summit.

Speaking at the ongoing 17th Nigeria Economic Summit, NES-17, in Abuja, President Jonathan said that his administration was acquiring and deploying all necessary security infrastructure to defeat the sect in order to make the nation an investors' haven in her quest to be a key global economic power.

His words: "We are working very hard to provide a conducive atmosphere for investors. Although we currently have the Boko Haram problem, just like terrorist activities in other parts of the globe, but I can assure Nigerians and the global community that we will soon overcome. All those involved in 2010 Independence Day attacks have been arrested. We admit that our primary responsibility is to provide security and we are working on it. Boko Haram is a temporary setback."

"It is important we recognize that terrorism is a global problem. It

is just that the problem of terrorism is new to us in this country. We are acquiring the right infrastructure to effectively combat them.

"Let me appeal, once again, to our global partners to see us as partners in progress. The investment environment in Nigeria is ripe. We are taking necessary steps to put in place appropriate legislation to guarantee and protect your investments.

"We are not unmindful of the security challenges that confront us. Government is taking firm steps to address the problem. We will continue to fight crime, punish offenders and do everything necessary to make our country conducive for everyone to live in and engage in genuine enterprises.

"To members of the global investor community, I want to tell you that our economy has maintained its growth, in the face of the global economic downturn.

"Meanwhile, our external trade and tariff policies are being reviewed, even as we recognize the need to promote and protect domestic industries. We

are committed to creating a more responsive tariff policy which will make our prohibition list more.

"The ministers and other public sector officials will be providing more details in their presentations and further in depth discussion with their private sector counterparts during the course of the Summit. I understand also that a number of state governors will participate in this Summit and use the opportunity to promote available business opportunities in their states."

Those who fail to invest in Nigeria now will regret

President Jonathan who personally participated in the Presidential Dialogue with Global CEOs on the theme "Attracting Foreign Direct Investment through Global Partnerships" where he stated that international firms who fail to invest in Nigeria now would regret in the future.

He said: "Anybody who fails to invest in Nigeria now because of these incidences of Boko Haram will regret it. Those who think that Nigeria is a place where they can always come and dump their products will eventually be disappointed because this will not continue for long."

The president insisted that there was no better time to invest in the country than now and therefore urged both local and foreign investors to do businesses in the country. President Jonathan also said that with the policies being put in place by his administration, he expected those that had relocated to neighbouring countries would return, but said he hoped they would return when they could find a place in the economy.

Fuel Subsidy

On the controversial subsidy issue, the president said that his political opponents were playing politics and trying to misinform the Nigerian populace with an ulterior motive of bringing down his

government. Dr Jonathan singled out his rival during the presidential polls, General Muhammadu Buhari as the only opposition politician that was honest in his position about the need to remove the subsidy and that the policy required, an extensive education among the people to enable them appreciate the benefits that would accrue to them from the removal of the subsidy on petroleum products.

"You know in this country, people play politics with everything, even serious issues that are very critical to the survival of the nation. Therefore you have to take the stability into consideration. You have to carry along all arms of government."

Unfortunately, here, people play politics with all things. Now even some of those who were arguing for the removal of subsidy before are now speaking from the other side of the mouth. Now they want to bring down the government.

"It is only General (Muhammadu) Buhari who has come out openly and spoke for the removal of subsidy. We have to educate the people, otherwise, some people, for political reasons, will misinform the people. If we don't deregulate now, in 10-15 years, we will be importing fuel from Ghana, Chad and other countries", he said.

Those to buy power sector

Speaking on the power sector which the investors identified as a basic necessity for the economy to genuinely blossom, the president assured that only credible firms with requisite technical know-how and financial muzzel to add value would be given the privilege to run the successor companies of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria, PHCN.

His words: "Nigerians are very clear in their demand for stable power supply and we are working on this. The power sector is very key and that is why we are diligently pursuing the privatization of the companies from the



PHCN

"We have discovered that some of the companies that were privatized in the past are not doing well because those to whom they were sold had no capacity to run them effectively. Take for instance the steel sector. We all have seen that the steel sector was not well handled and I don't want that to happen in the power sector."

"The Bureau of Public Enterprises, I believe, has gone a long way in the process of the privatization of the power sector. One thing we have decided to do is that a detailed due diligence must be carried out on all the companies that are vying for the power sector. It is not an area for starters. We want companies that have been in the business of power generation, transmission or distribution. We want companies that will add value and satisfy the power demands of the Nigerian public."

Population control

The president noted that although rapid population had become an issue of global concern, with many countries now addressing theirs through birth control; in Nigeria, the issue had become difficult due to the religious connotation in some quarters. He said, however, that there was need to educate Nigerians on the advantage of lean families that they could effectively provide for rather than just raise children who would become miscreants.

His words: "A large population has its advantages and disadvantages because of the large market but the disadvantage is that you have to provide for the people. In Nigeria for

religious reasons, you can't talk of population. But we have to educate the people.

"It is not the number of children but the quality of children that matters. If you have 20 children and all of them will be militants or Boko Haram, how will that help our nation? It is better to have one of two who will be useful to Nigeria. You will notice that those who don't have much are the ones who have many children while those who are in the middle class and the rich have fewer number of children. So we have to continue to educate the people."

Nigeria best place to invest — Dangote

In his remarks, the President of the Dangote Group, Alhaji Aliko Dangote said that he would continue to heavily invest in the Nigerian economy as according to him, there was no better economy in the globe with Nigeria's type of high return on investment.

He said his investment in cement alone had hit \$7 billion and that if he had access to as much as \$20 billion, he would invest it all in Nigeria with a view to saturating the Nigerian large market and meeting the needs of the West African Sub-Region.

"If I have \$20 billion, I will invest all of it in Nigeria. This is the best country to invest, considering the large market in the country and the West African sub-region which is readily accessible to Nigerian manufacturers.

"The problem of the perception of the risk in Nigeria is because many investors do not go out on their own to have first-hand information", he said.

He said that the security situation in the

TAKE HEART
BYELLA HANDLE

"It is more important to know where you are going than to get there quickly. Do not mistake activity for achievement" — Mabel Newcomber

LIVING in the moment, and making each day beautiful is possible when we cast aside the incessant worrying about things beyond our control. You can choose to be happy, to laugh, to love, and letting go of things that wear you down. You do have a choice to be whatever you want to be.

Looking back all through the years, I realise that some of the things I presumed were important now seem so ordinary and irrelevant. And amazingly, more than half the things we worry about never came to be and would have saved myself a lot of stress. Everything in life has its place. I do not waste precious energies on regrets, but I have learnt that there are easier and better ways of doing things. All of us are groomed for certain experiences and until we comprehend our life's purpose, which is all about giving and receiving divine love, we will wander in the wrong direction, searching aimlessly.

Life will gravitate to us the necessary experiences that are needed for our enlightenment and growth, if we stopped enough to find the right direction. People are the same everywhere. We laugh, love, and cry over situations, we may differ in some traits and characteristics but we all experience the high and low moments in life.

However, if you think you've been dealt the wrong cards in life, I would assure you from experiences and observations of life's ongoing, that by some intricate means, there is always balance in nature.

Just to wake up to a beautiful day with possibilities and prospect is a blessing and one who is filled with gratitude is full of divine awareness and the blessings that abound all around.

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Lagos landlords may forfeit titles for tenants' crime —Fashola *P.8*



BOKO HARAM: Sen Ndume docked

BOKO HARAM'S SUSPECTED FINANCIER IN COURT

•We stand by him — Senate
•As court convicts Boko Haram spokesman



By HENRY UMORU, IKECHUKWU NNOCHIRI & INALEGWU SHAIBU

ABUJA—FOLLOWING his alleged complicity in sponsorship of the Boko Haram Islamic sect, the States Security Service, SSS, yesterday, ar-

raigned Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume (Borno South Senatorial District), before an Abuja Chief Magistrate Court even as his colleagues in the Senate resolved to stand by him until investigations into the case have been concluded. The lawmaker who was

docked alongside the apprehended spokesman of the sect, Ali Sanda Umar Konduga (a.k.a Al-Zawahiri), pleaded not guilty to a two-count criminal charge that was preferred against them. According to the First In-

Continues on Page 5

BAYELSA PDP GUBER:

7 Govs meet Jonathan again over Sylva

•PDP appeal stalls Sylva's suit
•As judge hands-off suit, adjourns indefinitely *P.4*

CAN faults CBN's \$5m investment in Islamic biz group *P.20*

Alex Ibru may be buried Dec 16 —Son *P.52*

ARRAIGNMENT—Suspected financier of Boko Haram and serving Senator, Ali Ndume, at the Magistrate Court, Abuja, yesterday. INSET: Ali Sanda Umar Konduga (a.k.a Al-Zawahiri). Photo: Gbemiga Olanikan



BARON EDINOVIC

A fine wine for a fine occasion

NEWS

Boko Haram: Senator Ndume docked

Continues from Page 1
 formation Report, FIR, entered before the trial court, SSS, particularly accused Senator Ndume of breaching public trust by disclosing several classified information to the Boko Haram sect, an action it said was punishable under section 99(b) and 398 of the Penal Code.

Specifically, the security agency alleged that, "on diverse dates between September 15 and November 3, at Abuja, and Maiduguri in Borno State, you, Mohammed Ali Ndume and Ali Sarda Umar Konduga (a.k.a. Al-Zawahiri) spokesman of the Boko Haram sect, did conspire to commit felony to wit: breach of official trust in that Mohammed Ali Ndume disclosed classified information to persons to whom he ought not to the public interest to so disclose."

The SSS further alleged that the accused persons, "did incommunicate by anonymous communication, some senior public officials including the Attorney General of the Federation, and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 79, 98 and 398 of the Penal Code and punishable under section 99(b) and 398 of the same code."

Meanwhile, whereas the 1st accused person, Ndume, blatantly denied his alleged connivance

with the sect and pleaded not guilty to the charge against him, the 2nd accused, on the other hand, admitted guilt, even as he pleaded for leniency, saying he has repented of his past evil deeds.

Konduga who spoke through an interpreter, told the court that whilst he acted as spokesman of the sect, he only furnished them with classified information, but also gave them the phone numbers of highly placed persons who he said they often called or sometimes sent threat text messages to.

He confessed to the court that the last batch of text messages he sent to government officials in his capacity as the Boko Haram spokesman before he was subsequently stripped of the rank over suspicion that he was double-crossing the sect, included threat message to the Governors of Niger and Nasarawa states; to former Minister of Works, Sanusi Daggash, to the chairman of the Borno State election tribunal, Justice Sabo and to one Ambassador Dallatu Tafida.

Following his confession, presiding Magistrate Oye-bola Oyesemi yesterday, convicted him on the two-count charge against him, though she deferred his sentence until the final determination of the charge

against the 1st accused person.

Before the matter was adjourned to December 6 for hearing, Senator Ndume had through his counsel, Mr. C.J. Nnaemeka, pleaded the court to release him on bail pending trial. He told the court that he was suffering from prostate cancer and will have need for regular medical attention from his doctor.

Apprehensive that his application may be refused, Ndume who stood calm at the dock throughout the entire proceeding, raised his hand and urged the court to take cognizance of the fact that he is still a serving Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. He pleaded with the Magistrate to allow him go back home, bemoaning that "the way they invited me on Monday, I didn't have the slightest hint that I was going to spend a night in detention."

SSS counsel opposes oral application

Counsel to the SSS, Mr. Cliff Osagie, who noted that investigation into the matter was still ongoing, vehemently opposed his oral application.

He said: "Your worship, the issue of conspiracy between the 1st and 2nd accused have not been resolved and investigation is at its concluding stage with regard to that aspect. We will be applying to this court that the sentencing of the 2nd accused person be stayed until the determination of the other allegation against the 1st and 2nd accused. We also apply that the two accused persons be remained in custody of the SSS."

Frantic attempts by the defence counsel to secure the release of the accused persons was further thwarted by the Boko Haram spokesman, 2nd accused, who not only disowned the lawyer in the open court, but also told the court that he never briefed anyone to appear on his behalf.

He pleaded the court to go ahead and grant the request of the prosecuting counsel, saying he would be comfortable in SSS detention owing to threat by the terrorist sect, which he said, has already passed vote of no confidence on him.

Consequently, the trial court, yesterday, remanded the accused persons in SSS custody pending when a formal bail application would be filed be-

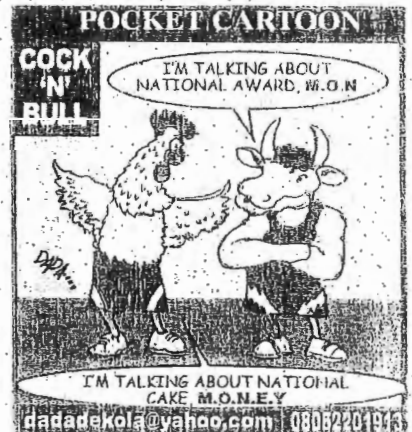
fore the court. The court, however, ordered the prosecution to ensure that the lawmaker was not only granted access to his lawyers but also to his medical doctor.

Shortly after yesterday's court session, Senator Ndume who wore white Buba and matching cap, and the 2nd accused person, were whisked back to their detention cell by armed operatives of the SSS.

We stand by him until... —Senator

Meanwhile the Senate said, yesterday, that it will continue to stand by the embattled Senator Ali Ndume, who has been fingered as one of the sponsors of the Boko Haram sect.

Answering questions from newsmen, Chairman, Senate Committee on Media and Public Affairs, Senator Enyinnaya Abaribe, who noted that the Senate was worried over the development where a Senator of the Federal Republic was fingered as being behind a terrorist group, stressed that the Senate will not abandon Ndume who is the Chairman, Senate Committee on Millennium



Development Goals, MDGs, until investigations were completed.

Abaribe said: "The Senate is very much aware and has got the same information that other Nigerians have got about an alleged claim by a member of the Boko Haram sect concerning a member of the Senate and a member of the National Assembly. The Senate wishes to state very clearly that it has always been in the forefront of urging the security agencies to do the necessary job to make Nigeria safe for everyone of us."

The Senate spokesperson who urged the department of State Security Service to carry out a thorough investigation as well as

ensure that those who commit any crime irrespective of the person's status were brought to book, said: "The Senate wishes to urge the security agencies to continue their investigation because they have told us that the investigation is continuing and at the end of their investigation, they should come out with their report and if anyone is indicted, they should go ahead and follow the dictate of the rule of law as enunciated in the Constitution.

"The constitution of Nigeria has a presumption of innocence and what that means is that every accused person is presumed

Continues on Page 11

Senator Ndume: A man of the crowds

By EMMANUEL AZIKEN, Political Editor & NDAHI MARAMA

SENATOR Mohammed Ali Ndume who was, yesterday, spending a second straight day in isolation in the custody of the State Security Service, SSS, is ironically a man of the crowds. His popularity defied the stereotype of political success in his native Borno State. His popularity with the crowd was weaved on a famed philanthropy and down to earth approach with the electorate.

He is from the ethnic Gwoza tribe in Southern Borno but his popularity in the Kanuri dominated political culture had recently spun speculations that he could become the first non-Kanuri to be elected governor of the State.

Ndume's political career commenced after a stint as a lecturer at the Ramat Polytechnic, Maiduguri, with his successful contest for a seat to represent the Gwoza, Damboa, Chibok Federal Constituency in the 2003 general elections. His success on the platform of the All Nigeria Peoples Party, ANPP, was largely instrumental to the politi-

cal tsunami orchestrated by the successful gubernatorial campaign of Senator Ali Modu Sheriff.

He was a vocal member of the House in his two terms and in his second term his fortune rose as he emerged the House Minority Leader. He was particularly a harsh critic of the PDP, a party he dismissed repeatedly on the floor and outside for failing Nigerians. He particularly delighted critics of the PDP with his laced oratorical powers with which he used in denouncing the party that was to lift him to the zenith of his political aspirations.

Loyal associate

Ndume made two attempts to climb to the Senate. In his first attempt he was allegedly stopped by Governor Sheriff who preferred a second term for his loyal associate, Senator Omâr Hambagda. Sheriff's attempt to stop Ndume for a second time in 2011, however, led to the collapse of their relationship as Ndume crossed over to the PDP on whose platform he trounced Sheriff's anointed candidate, Mrs. Asabe

Vilita Bashir, who was also Sheriff's Commissioner for Women Affairs.

Though a member of the PDP, Ndume's politics on the Senate floor may not have been totally pleasing to the party Senate whips. He has been trenchant in his denunciation of the proposal to withdraw fuel subsidy telling Vanguard in an interview that the proposal was anti-people and unconstitutional.

He once said: "So what they are trying to do is unconstitutional. As far as I am concerned they should forget about it because Nigerians have clearly rejected it. I don't think it is right to remove fuel subsidy now that we don't have power, the refineries are not working, most businesses and homes depend on fuel to power their generators. To remove subsidy now is to create confusion and create problem in the country."

On the Boko Haram insurgency, Senator Ndume was part of the Borno State National Assembly delegation that called for amnesty for the insurgents and for the removal of the military JTF from the state on account of reckless killings of innocent civilians.

TAKE HEART
 BY BILLY RANDLE

Again, you can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something — your gut, destiny, life, whatever. This approach has never let me down, and it has made all the difference in my life. —Steve Jobs

It is a beautiful day, the azure skies of luminous clouds is resplendent with formations of imageries reflecting the natural landscape and I reflected deeply on life and its many courses like the meandering river below. Life is a treasure of countless adventures and experiences, all is necessary for the journey and the path chosen, to move forward in life, an individual must learn and master how to flow with its unlimited possibilities.

How can we do this? I know this much, one must start by looking within to find the way for themselves, to finding answers from life. We must be quiet within and discover our true gifts, and take life to the next level, to think outside the box and be positively creative with our talents and abilities, to keep going no matter what life brings. Most importantly, we must go after our goals dreams and aspiration with such determination that only the zeal to excel can exude.

I watched the flowing river and wondered how many tributaries it has joined or merged in the course of its journey. It reminded me of the eternal nature of love flowing endlessly from the infinite ocean; you can take from its living waters and still it will flow, life may direct a different course, and still it will flow. You may row your boat down the river bend or to a far distant place, the tide will carry you still. It is like the divine breath of life, for such is the nature of a loving heart, constantly flowing.

NEWS

'Lack of anti-trust law may ruin case against BA, VAA'

BY EMEKA MAMAH

UYO—INSTITUTE of Chartered Economists of Nigeria, ICEN, has predicted that the efforts by Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority, NCAA, to collect \$235 million from British Airways, BA, over alleged abuse of dominant positions may not yield fruitful results as the country had no Antitrust Law.

Chief Coordinator of ICEN in the South-South region, Mr. Friday Udoh, made this known in a statement yesterday.

Crimes, fines, compensation

NCAA indicted BA and Virgin Atlantic Airline, VAA, after the conclusion of its six months' findings over alleged abuse of dominant position through price fixing and unfair fare regime, saying that they were guilty of "fixing prices, abusing fuel surcharges and taking undue advantage of passengers."

The authority fined them about \$235 million with BA responsible for 57.45%

while the balance would be offset by VAA. However, the two airlines denied any wrongdoing in the matter.

Aside from the fine, NCAA also ordered them to reimburse and compensate Nigerian passengers who purchased tickets and travelled on both airlines within the period in a manner that is not only commensurate to what they had agreed on or was paid in the U.K and U.S.

BA, VAA respond

However, VAA, through its country representative, Chief John Adebajo, has absolved itself of any wrongdoing, saying: "I do not think we have violated Nigerian law in any way. We hold the Director-General of NCAA and the agency in high esteem.

"We respect the laws of the land. A full response will be coming from our office later."

BA, on its part, said: "We reject the allegations made by NCAA and we are vigorously defending our position.

"We remain committed to Nigeria and have been flying there for more than 75 years. We pride ourselves on offering competitive fares, a choice of products and connections to our Nigerian customers."

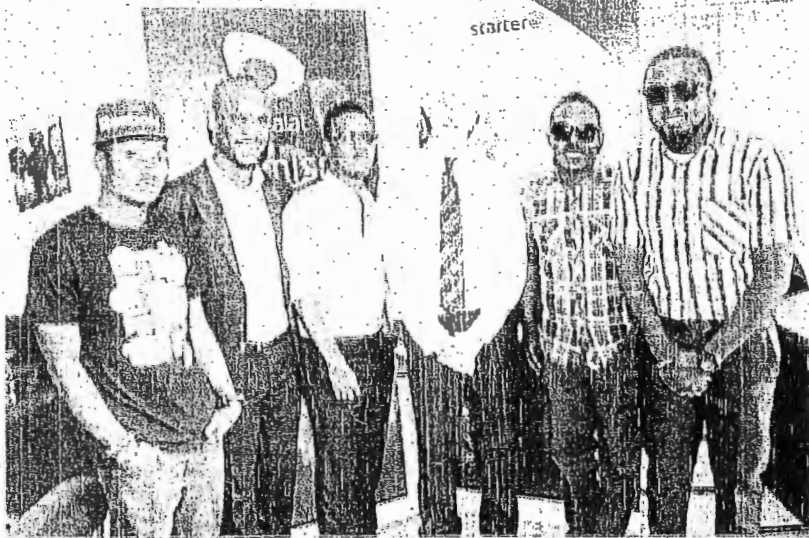
'Missing' law

However, reacting to the incident, Mr. Udoh said that the effort by "NCAA may yield little or no result, considering the absence of Antitrust Law in the country."

He commended the efforts of Dr. Harold Demuren as well as the Minister of Aviation, Princess Stella Oduah, for having the interests of the country at heart.

But he said neither VAA, nor any other individual, was far away from the truth, adding that the slow pace or the near abandonment of the Antitrust Bill, which passage into law had been delayed since September 2002 was inimical to the growth of aviation industry in the country.

Udoh said: "For our policy makers to continue to ignore the National Antitrust Commission Bill, with this type of scenario, is a dangerous invitation to a perpetual state of economic doldrums."



VISIT: From left—Brymoh, Chocolate City artiste; Mr. Enitan Denloye, Director Brands & Communications, Etisalat Nigeria; Jesse Jays; Mr. Steve Evans, CEO Etisalat Nigeria; MI and Ice Prince, both of Chocolate City, during a visit by Chocolate City records to Etisalat.

Boko Haram: Sen Ndume docked

Continues from Page 5

innocent until he is found guilty. So, what we are saying is that it is a mere accusation and we want the due process to be followed. The due process, of course, is what the state security agencies have told us that they are still investigating the matter. So, the Senate cannot come to any conclusion when the investigation is going on."

When asked whether the Senate has suspended Ndume, Senator Abaribe said: "Naturally, the Senate would be sympathetic with its member and it is also worried about such an insinuation but at the moment, we are very well aware that it is just a mere allegation and the security agencies have said they are investigating the allegation.

"So, we stand by our member until the investigations are concluded."

It's a mere allegation —Sen Abaribe

On whether it was not a contradiction that the Senate was being fingered in the wake Boko Haram sect, Abaribe said: "It is just one member of the National Assembly out of 500, that was mentioned and this is, like I continue to say, a mere allegation. I will urge you to exercise some patience and give security agencies some time.

"You will recall that this Senate has been very supportive of the security agencies to curb the menace and we commend them and are

looking up to them to do a thorough job. If there are allegations, we expect such to be thoroughly investigated and properly handled and then, whatever comes out of it, we will then come back to the government of the day."

Asked if the Senate would further investigate itself against the backdrop of what happened, Abaribe said: "It is not the job of the Senate to do security investigation, it is the job of security agents and we have given them free hand, supported them and done everything to make sure they do their job as efficaciously as possible."

On why the Senate did not reject the Lagos State nominee on National Population Commission, NPC, after the three senators from Lagos opposed her nomination, Abaribe said: "There is a difference between a rule and a convention.

"That was not a Senate rule, it is not in our rule book but it is a convention on the floor of the Senate that there must be unanim-

ity and support but this same Senate on its floor has also in the past, overruled its members because we insist that any such objection must be on the basis of national interest and not on any other basis.

The letter that was written by distinguished senators from Lagos State mainly stated that they were objecting on the basis of the nominee not being an indigene of Lagos State and the Senate would not accept such an excuse because the constitution of Nigeria clearly states that women can be nominated based on where they come from or where they are married to and that is the reason and surprisingly, Mrs. Tinubu is not an indigene of Lagos State, yet, she represents the State.

"So, we felt that in the interest of national unity and cohesion, that we should overrule such an objection."

Also yesterday, the Senate referred the Chairman and other nominees of the National Human Rights Commission to the Senate

Committees on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters, just as report of the Adhoc Committee on the Investigation of the Privatization and Commercialization Activities of the Bureau of Public Enterprises, BPE, from 1999 to date headed by Senator Ahmed Lawan, Yobe North was received.

Ibru's life, a lesson for Nigerians—Ibori

BY EMEKA MAMAH

LAGOS—FORMER Governor of Delta State, Chief James Ibori, has lamented the death of Dr. Alex Ibru, saying it has robbed both the Urhobo nation, the country, the newspaper industry and the business world of a rare gem.

In a statement by his Media Assistant, Ibori said late Ibru was a man of many parts, adding that he would be mainly

remembered as a pathfinder who hacked a way through the thick forest of newspaper publishing and showed Nigerians a refreshingly new way of doing things; through his introduction of *The Guardian* newspaper. According to the statement, those "who knew Alex Ibru intimately would remember him as a truly gentle soul who always hungered and thirsted for honesty and harmony in his relationships—whether personal or in business."

Ibori said Ibru's life was a lesson for present and future generations to imbibe as he sought excellence in everything he attempted.

The former Governor however, prayed God to grant the Ibru family and Delta State the grace to bear this colossal loss.

Delta upgrades budgetary system

BY AUSTIN OGWUDA

ASABA—DELTA State Commissioner for Economic Planning, Mr. Kenneth Okpara, has said that plans are underway to ensure that the State Ministry of Finance digitally synchronises its activities with his ministry to ensure effective

budgetary system. Okpara said: "At the end of the day what the Ministry of Finance is doing should be able to tally with what we have in Economic Planning.

"This control, may not have worked in the past, but we will ensure that it works and when we have this in place we would be able to have an effective

budgetary system in the state."

He also disclosed that his ministry would henceforth ensure that ministries are subjected to quarterly review.

He pointed out that when a quarter of the year ends, "the ministry will give its reports on its physical and financial progress."

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2011

N150

Waziri did well, her removal was political — Tsav

- Commences hand-over to Lamorde
- As fear of mass re-deployment, sack looms at EFCC
- She was served disengagement letter — Anyim

A rare opportunity



Sweet & SOUR

Donu Kogbara.

Boko Haram lists fresh targets

- Denies link with detained Senator Ndume
- Alleged involvement of Senator Ndume, unfortunate — Jonathan
- We are solidly behind our son — Borno South Senatorial District

By DANIEL IDONOR & NDAHI MARAMA

MAIIDUGURI—ISLAMIC sect, Boko Haram, which has claimed responsibility for series of bomb attacks in the northern part of the country, yesterday, declared that its next targets would be offices of political parties nationwide even as it denied any link with serving Senator Ali Ndume who is facing trial in Abuja for allegedly

Continues on Page 5



MOBILE PAYMENT SERVICE—L-r: Adeyinka Adedeji, Chairman, Afri-Pay Ltd; Mr. Obinna Ufudo, and Group Managing Director/CEO, UBA Plc; Mr. Phillips Oduzo, during the official launch of the first mobile payment service, U-Mo, in Lagos, yesterday.

Mr & Mrs

WE STARTED THE ANNE WYVAL TICKETS. THE SON ISSUED WANTED ONE BABY, BUT SHE MIRACULOUSLY DELIVERED A SET OF TRIPLETS.

A SET OF WHAT? PLEASE DO NOT INTERACT WITH ANY PREGNANT WOMAN IN THE HOSPITAL UNTIL YOU DELIVER YOUR OWN BABY.

danidonor@yahoo.com
01105224111

BARON DE VALLIS
A fine occasion is made.

NEWS

Boko Haram lists fresh targets

Continues from Page 1
being a sponsor of the sect.

Meanwhile, President Goodluck Jonathan has described as unfortunate, alleged involvement of Senator Ndume in activities of the Islamic sect just as Ndume's supporters have called for his immediate release.

Senator Ndume was arraigned at an Abuja Magistrate Court, Tuesday, on a two-count charge of terrorism following the confessions of former spokesman of the sect, Ali Konduga, a.k.a Usman Al-Zawahiri, that the senator was one of their sponsors.

Denying any link with the senator yesterday, the sect said that on no occasion did it fraternize with any politician in its battle to islamize Nigeria, noting that very soon all political offices of the PDP, ANPP, CPC, among others from the federal, state, local governments and ward levels in the country would be their next targets of attack.

Spokesman of Boko Haram, Abdul Qaqa, who addressed a press briefing at the Buba Marwa press centre in Maiduguri said the group, which ideology was to ensure strict implementa-

tion of Sharia Law in the country was "ever ready to fight the battle to a finish," saying that it was shocked to read on the pages of newspapers that Senator Ali Ndume was one of their principal sponsors.

Qaqa said their sponsor was no any other person than Allah, (God), noting that already, they have warned the public to ignore Al-zawahiri, who he claimed was not a member of the Boko Haram sect, but an agent of the SSS and the government.

His words: "Please I want you the media to tell Nigerians, particularly those who are tenants in the houses of politicians with political flags, posters, to vacate such houses or remove such inscriptions irrespective of whichever political party, as when we strike all those places would be part of our targets. All these places mentioned would not be spared. I am giving this strong warning for people to desist from any political patronage, and their buildings because, we don't want to kill innocent souls when we strike, and Inshallahu, we are going to do it very soon and succeed."

Qaqa stressed that Al-

zawahiri, was a member of a group of political thugs called ECOMOG, during the Ali Sheriff-led government; and that he (Alzawahiri) had no any linkage with Boko Haram as far as the group was concerned.

Alleged involvement of Senator Ndume, unfortunate—Jonathan

Meanwhile President Goodluck Jonathan has described as unfortunate, the alleged involvement and sponsorship of Boko Haram, by serving top politicians, such as Senator Ali Ndume, saying that all those behind the criminalization and politicisation of what started as a religious group would be made to face the wrath of the law.

The President spoke as fresh facts emerged that there could be more arrests of top political office holders in the weeks ahead, following what top security operatives described as conclusion of evidence and intelligence gathering on the alleged link between the group and key sponsors.

Declaring open the biennial Honorary International Investors Council Meeting, HIIIC, in Paris, France, in his capacity as chairman of the council, the President said with the renewed vigour by Nigerian security agencies to curb the menace of the Boko Haram, its existence in the country would soon be history.

would have been facing trials.

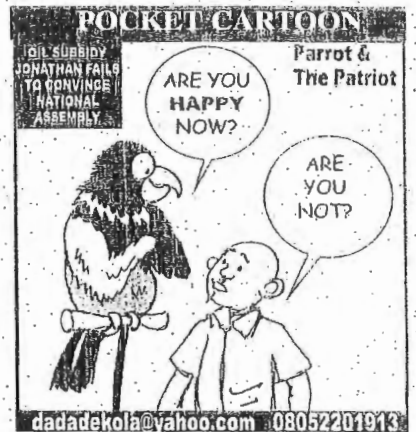
He said: "There must be concrete evidence before you make an arrest to avoid blackmail of the government because when very senior politicians are involved such as a distinguished senator one must get his facts right: Unfortunately, a serving senator, a distinguished senator is one of the suspects."

The president, however, assured members of the council and the international community that he was on top of the security situation in the country, and that shortly the tide of the sect would be stemmed.

We are solidly behind our son — Borno South Senatorial District

In a related development, a group from Southern Borno Senatorial District, in their hundreds besieged the NUJ House in Maiduguri in a show of solidarity with Senator Ndume.

Briefing newsmen, the leader of the group, Mr. Ibrahim Makeri, condemned the allegations levelled against Senator Ndume stressing that "all those allegations were unsubstantiated, untrue, and contained classical set-up and contradictions" adding that he was



unfairly subjected to trial by the SSS and the media.

Makeri said: "It is shocking that when the SSS in Abuja invited the serving senator, he (Ndume); honoured the invitation, but has been detained since then. And when members of his family, lawyers and some senators were waiting to see him on the 22nd of this month at his place of detention, the senator was bundled out of the SSS office and taken to court without their knowledge, to the effect that the senator was then charged before a Magistrate Court where a live television broadcast was being transmitted."

The group described Ndume as "humble, honest, kind and law abiding citizen, who will not be a member of any organization or group against the laws of the land", point-

ing out that "what is now happening to the senator is not criminal accusation, but a political blasphemy, masterminded by a cartel."

Makeri added: "As members of his constituency, the Borno South Senatorial District, we are strongly behind him and support all his good positions". The group, therefore, declared that the battle line has been drawn between those who want to silence him and the group.

It, however, thanked members of the National Assembly, general public, supporters and admirers of Senator Ndume who have shown concern through phone calls, text messages, and personal visit, and urged them to remain calm and continue to be law abiding like their leader, as the matter is now before the court of law.

TAKE HEART BY ELLAI RANDLE

Every person, whether they are conscious of it or not demonstrate with their lives how he or she thinks. In the words of the philosopher "The task is not so much to see what no one has seen, but to think what nobody yet has thought about that which everyone sees. But life is short, and truth works far and lives long: let us speak the truth— Arthur Schopenhauer

HE went to say that the incredibly great majority of men are by their nature absolutely incapable of any but material aims, they cannot even comprehend any others. Accordingly, the pursuit of truth alone is a lofty pursuit too lofty and eccentric for us to expect that all or many, indeed even a mere few, will sincerely partake of it. My guiding star in all seriousness has been truth... All truth passes through three stages. First it is ridiculed. Second. It is violently opposed. Third. It is accepted as being self-evident.

I am always amazed at the incredible indescribable energies that love radiates. It inevitably gives me a better understanding to what originates this awesome energy of life.

Most times we tend to categorize and rationalize our understanding of life and love. However, when we have learned to master these two energies beyond the emotional and mental state of being, we begin to fathom how it transcends all the visage and mirage around us and know that explanations are no longer necessary for better comprehension, the subtle heartbeats, ubiquitous feelings of excitement that pervade one's heart, when realisation dawns on us, is but a spectrum of the bliss that grace our lives when we gleamed just an iota of the divine essence.

Nothing compares to the spiral energy of light like a whirlpool of gushing currents melting our hearts like a deice glacier curving a smooth pathway to divine love. Love yourself most beautifully and you will see in your fellowman the love in your heart, what is life, if you have everything but have not in your heart this thing called love.

Rising security challenges

A member of the HICM and French oil giant, Total Nigeria Limited, in a show of confidence on the ability of the Federal Government to tackle the rising security challenges posed by Boko Haram, said it has shored up its investment portfolio in Nigeria to \$2 billion (about N300 billion) with plans to invest another \$2 billion into the economy by next year, bringing its total risk in the country to \$4 billion (about N600 billion).

President Jonathan expressed deep concern over the hijack of Boko Haram by prominent politician in Nigeria for selfish but criminal reasons, saying that it was to avoid blackmail against the Federal Government that very few politicians have so far been arrested; otherwise more of them

••'Spokesman' claims Al-Qaeda links

MAIDUGURI—A purported spokesman for Boko Haram, claimed yesterday that the group, blamed for attacks including the suicide bombing of UN headquarters in Nigeria, has links with Al-Qaeda.

The man who identified himself as Abul Qaqa told reporters in a phone conference in the Hausa language. "It is true we have links with Al-Qaeda. They assist us and we assist them."

Abul Qaqa has claimed to speak on behalf of Boko Haram on a number of previous occasions. He did not provide further details on the supposed link, but said: "Any Muslim group that is struggling to establish an Islamic state can get support from Al-Qaeda if they reach out to them."

There has long been speculation, particularly among Western nations,

over whether Boko Haram has formed links with outside extremist groups, including Al-Qaeda's North African branch.

Boko Haram has been blamed for scores of attacks in Nigeria, including the August suicide bombing of UN headquarters in the capital Abuja that killed at least 24 people.

Bomb rocks Maiduguri

A bomb explosion rocked Maiduguri late Wednesday in the latest such attacks by the sect but nobody was hurt, state police commissioner, Simon Midenda said.

The explosion in a desolate area of the city was part of a new strategy devised by the sect in attacks targeting a special military unit deployed in the city to counter the sect.

he said Thursday. Midenda said: "We have realised that Boko Haram members have come up with a new tactic of detonating bombs in places where there are no people and then lay ambush on soldiers who will naturally deploy in the area where there is explosion."

The group is believed to have a number of factions with varying aims. Security services alleged this week that some Boko Haram members have links to politicians following the arrest of another alleged spokesman for the group.

Abul Qaqa refuted the secret police claims during the phone conference, while also threatening to kill a political figure in Borno State as well as attack political party offices.

He issued the threat *Continues on Page 49*

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N150

**Yeisa's do-
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THE NEW PERSONAL

Why FG has not named Boko Haram

One killed, 12 injured in Jos explosions

By TAYE OBATERU &
GBENGA ARIYIBI

**Gunmen kill
mother of 9,
injure 2 others
in Kaduna** -P. 6

**FG halts
retirement of
non teaching
varsity staff** -P. 14

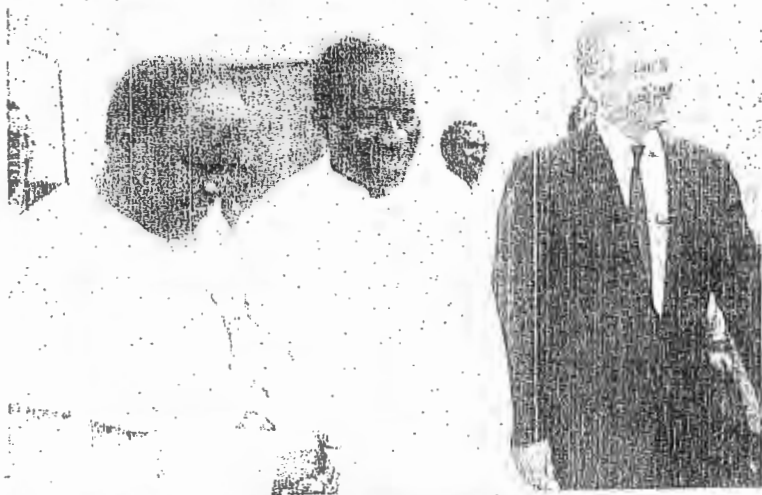
**Remembering the
Publisher:
A tribute to
Alex Ibru by
Yemi Ogunbiyi** -P. 10

**Govt would have
resolved banking
crisis with
N500bn** -P. 17
—Operator

Financial

EKITI—THE Federal Government, yesterday, admitted that Police has not got to grips with challenges posed by terrorist groups like the Boko Haram insurgency blaming its failure so far in stopping the bombings on the new style adopted by

Continues on Page 5



ELLOWSHIP—President Goodluck Jonathan (middle) flanked by the founding National Chairman Peoples Democratic Party, PDP Dr. Solomon Lar and former British Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair, after the service at the Aso Villa Chapel, State House, Abuja, yesterday. Photo: Abayomi Adeshida

Mr & Mrs

I CAN'T WASH YOUR BOXERS, I'M A BUSY PERSON. LET THE LAUNDRYWOMAN TAKE CARE OF THEM HENCEFORN!

WELL, IF THE WOMAN GIVES ME A BOXER AS A GIFT, DON'T BE SURPRISED HOW SHE KNOWS MY SIZE!

okideke@ychoe.com
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BARON DE VALLS

Ain't no party like a Baron de Vall's party

NEWS

Why FG has not tamed Boko Haram

Continues from Page 1
the insurgents.
Minister of Police Affairs, Navy Capt Caleb Olubolade (rtd) who spoke with newsmen in Ipoti Ekiti, Ijebu Local Government Area of Ekiti State nevertheless assured Nigerians of the administration's readiness to meet the insurgents head on.

While admitting that the police was not yet on top of security challenges, especially as it affects Boko Haram, Olubolade said the menace of the religious sect was a new dimension in the history of the country.

He said: "We need information from the people without which we cannot perform optimally. I will not say that we have done marvelously well on Boko Haram. This is because it is a new dimension and Nigerians like to import foreign things: It is alien to Nigerians. Because it is new, we cannot say we are on top of it yet. However, the current security situation has given us the opportunity to reappraise our security apparatus and it is teaching us a new way to approach it. It has also shown us that we should be our brothers' keeper. It has also taught us that we should give information to the police because without information, even the best-trained police force or security outfit cannot function well."

Olubolade, said his

ministry was still procuring means and expanding the capacity of the security agencies through new technologies to be able to effectively tackle the security situation. He said the Police have been expanding the scope of trainings of personnel to be able to face the challenge posed by some dangerous sects in the country.

One killed, 12 injured in Jos explosions

Meanwhile one person was confirmed dead and about 12 others injured in Saturday night's multiple blasts in the Plateau State capital as condemnations trailed what some described as continued onslaught on innocent Nigerians.

A lady had her two legs chopped off while some others had multiple fractures when the explosives planted close to crowded viewing centres where people were watching European football went off at three points almost simultaneously. The incident created fresh panic as residents remained indoors for the better part of the day.

Former Governor of the state, Ambassador Fidelis Appun, condemned the attack targeted at innocent Nigerians. Appun, told Vanguard in a chat that violence has not been known to solve any problem anywhere in the

world and appealed to those concerned to explore dialogue as an option rather than taking on fellow Nigerians who have nothing to do with their grievances.

Addressing journalists yesterday, Operation Commander of the Special Task Force, STF, maintaining security in the state, Col. Joseph Iwara, said security has been beefed up around the affected areas adding that shrapnels from the explosives were picked from the scenes for further analysis.

He said that those injured in the explosions were receiving treatment at the Jos University Teaching

Hospital, JUTH, and the Bligham University Teaching Hospital, both in Jos.

The state government has also condemned the explosions describing it as "acts of wickedness deliberately targeted at innocent civilians going about their normal lawful business."

Commissioner for Information and Communication, Mr. Yijap Abraham said in a statement, that the action will not deter government from sustaining and strengthening the existing peace in the state and consoled with the bereaved family while wishing the injured quick recovery.

At JUTH, some of the in-



jured said they were engrossed in the match they were watching when the explosions hit them. It was

gathered that two of the eight people taken to the hospital have undergone surgery.

FUEL SUBSIDY REMOVAL, INSECURITY

Anarchy looms, say leaders of thought

•Nigeria must be re-designed and rebuilt, not re-branded - Nwabueze

BY CLIFFORD NDUJICHE, Deputy Political Editor

SOME leaders of thought in the country, yesterday, reviewed the rising wave of instability and insecurity in the country, government's insistence on removing fuel subsidy as well as the delay in restructuring the polity and returned a damning verdict: anarchy looms!

The leaders under the banner of National Consensus Group of Project Nigeria, warned that mass revolts were imminent in the country if the state of affairs remained unchanged.

The group's spokesman, Mr. Wale Okunniyi, said in an interview that except plunged into a surprise extra legal intervention.

He said the eminent leaders' group driven by senior citizens like Prof Ben Nwabueze, SAN, Alhaji Maitama Sule, Dr Tunji Braithwaite, Alhaji Balarabe Musa, Chief Audu Ogbah, Dr Kalu Idika Kalu, Dr Lateef Adegbite, Olisa Agbakoba, SAN, Labour and civil society leaders among others were disappointed at the present state of affairs in the country orchestrated by system and leadership failure. Indeed, one of the leaders, Professor Nwabueze, picked holes in the government's

current moves to amend sections of the 1999 Constitution, saying the country needed a brand new code book.

Okunniyi said: "Nigerians must note that the general insecurity in the land, the unabated suicide bombings and pervasive frustrations of the masses, the refusal of the ruling class to open up space for genuine national negotiation as well as the politics of oil subsidy versus minimum wage are all ominous symptoms of deeper structural and governance crisis in the country, which is beyond the present rhetoric of government."

"Given several assessments and consultations we have had, the major exclusions in governance, the fear of our rulers to allow for a genuine national dialogue and the resultant bottled up anger everywhere, I can bet that there shall be an organized mass action and a major shaking in the country soon."

New constitution, not amendment - Nwabueze

Stressing the need for the country to go for a fresh constitution, Nwabueze said most stakeholders in the country were unanimous on the issue. He said: "The question

remains, however, as to how this supreme objective is to be accomplished. The answer, of course, is that Nigeria must be re-designed and rebuilt, not re-branded. To rebuild a house, you must re-design the super-structure. If the super-structure is not got right, the edifice must wobble continuously, as Nigeria has been wobbling since it was built by the British colonialists.

"Now, the super-structure of a state, like Nigeria, is its constitution. In the democratic age in which we live today, the generally accepted super-structure for a stable, enduring state, not a wobbly one, is a democratic constitution, otherwise called a people's constitution. What is a democratic constitution? It is a form of democracy itself. Democracy is a form of government in which the people is everything - the ultimate law-maker; the source of all power; the bestower of the mandate or authority, through their votes at elections, for the exercise of power by those elected to rule."

"A constitution is not democratic simply because it establishes a democratic form of government. Democratisation rests on a false and weak foundation if a democratic form of government, as enshrined in the constitution, is not in fact the choice of the people

expressed by means of a national conference, followed by approval at a referendum or by a Constituent Assembly specially and specifically elected for the purpose."

The practical significance of a democratic constitution in the context of Nigeria, as in the context of the rest of Africa, lies partly in the nature and structure of our society. It is in this respect that Nigeria and Africa differ fundamentally from the U.S. and Europe. Whilst each of the original 13 colonies and, even more so, each of 50 States that make up the United States today, comprises peoples of different languages, races, religions and cultural backgrounds, each of those different peoples does not, by and large, inhabit a separate territorial area within the state in Africa, the Hausa/Fulani, Yoruba, the Igbo, the Ijaw, the Urhobos, the Itsekiris, the Ibibios and other ethnic groups in Nigeria for example, inhabit each a separate territorial area, which constitutes them a separate territorial entity. Creating a nation out of a diversity of peoples each inhabiting a separate territorial area and constituting a separate territorial entity confronts a problem fundamentally different in nature and character from that faced by the Americans since 1787."

TAKE HEART BY ELIA RANDLE

Human beings have a host of needs, a need for love and recognition, for belonging and identity, for purpose and a meaningful life. If all these needs had to be subsumed in one word, it might be respect - William Ury

means to have a regard for and honoring them, i.e. to pay attention to someone's needs. Even more importantly, respect means treating one another with dignity

Sarah Cobbs says it aptly "Respect plays an important role in a number of ways: Respect allows one to build trust with "the other." Respect allows one to build and rebuild relationships. It provides one with "an entry," into the other side. Those who are respected within the community are most likely to be able to bring or encourage peace. In addition, respect can make the key difference in the direction of any conflict situation"

When we live in love, fear disappears and we can spread positive energy to everyone around us. If you look for the good in others, you will find it. Cultivate goodwill within yourself and plant the seed in others, what we give to life comes back in manifold.

In life the beautiful lofty things are beyond ordinary perceptions, it is about living gracefully, so simple and yet profound. It is doing to another as I would do to myself.

Vanguard

...towards a better life for the people

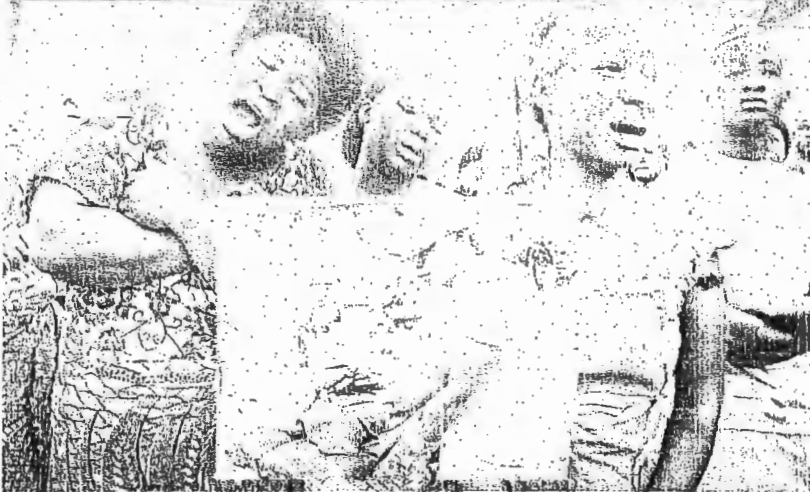
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N150

BLACK CHRISTMAS



TEARS ON XMAS—Sympathisers at the scene of Madalla bomb blast on Christmas Day. Inset: Helping the injured. Photos: Abayomi Adeshida. See more pics on page 14

10th ANNIVERSARY
FRIENDS



Politicians, elite not fair to masses
— Ngige

We 'll make Nigeria great
— Jonathan

BOKO HARAMI

Outrage over Xmas massacre

- This is a war against Nigeria — Mark
- Mass burial for unidentified victims
- ACN, ACF, CPC, Utomi, Ngige, others slam FG
- Catholic Church, NEMA disagree on casualty figures
- AU, NLC, France, ex-envoys condemn acts • P. 6
- Soldiers on alert in Imo, Abia, Enugu, P-H • P. 12

LCCI laments energy cost, high interest rates • P. 6

BY ROTIMI AJAYI, EMEKA MAMAIL, CLIFFORD NDUJIHE, VICTORIA OJEME, ABDULWAHAB ABDULAH, DAPO AKINREFON, INALEGWU SHAIBU & FUNMI OLADAPO

ABUJA—OUTRAGE yesterday greeted the multiple Christmas Day bomb blasts in four states of the country, especially at St. Theresa Catholic Church,

Continues on Page 5

Mr. & Mrs.

DEAR, REMEMBER YOU TOLD ME WHAT IS YOURS IS MINE AND THAT MY PEOPLE ARE YOUR PEOPLE.

DEBORAH, IF IT'S BUYING ANOTHER BAG OF RICE, FORGET IT. I'VE ALREADY GIVEN SIX BAGS TO YOUR PEOPLE. DO THEY WANT TO CELEBRATE TWO XMAS CELEBRATIONS AT ONCE?

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Complexion Care Soap



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NEWS

Boko Haram: Outrage over Xmas massacre

Continues from Page 1

Madalla, Niger State, which claimed about 26 lives, maimed numerous others and destroyed over 10 vehicles and buildings.

The Catholic Church however dismissed the casualty figure given by NEMA saying the death toll did not represent what really happened. The church's spokesman, Monsignor Gabriel Osu, in a reaction yesterday said the number of the dead given as 26 by NEMA is wrong because hundreds of people would normally be trooping out of the church at the time of the bomb blast.

As survivors recounted their experience and families of victims battled with little or no luck to identify corpses of relations, most of whom were burnt beyond recognition, Senate President David Mark described the unimpeachable attack launched by the Boko Haram Islamic sect as war against Nigerians.

The attack, a repeat of similar explosions carried out by the group on December 24 and 31, 2010 also drew condemnations from many eminent Nigerians, groups and political parties.

Among those, who decried the mayhem

were Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (rtd), Professor Pat Utomi, Senator Enyimaya Abaribe, Mr. Femi Falana, Chief Maxi Okwu, Dr Frederick Faseun, Sen. Bukola Saraki and Alhaji Shettima Yerima.

The Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN); Congress for Progressive Change (CPC), Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), African Renaissance Party (ARP), Campaign for Democracy (CD), Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC), Muslim Public Affairs Centre (MPAC) and The Muslim Congress (TMC) also condemned the blast and proffered suggestions on how to check the Boko Haram menace.

Meanwhile, Vanguard learnt yesterday that most of the dead may be given a mass burial because they were charred beyond recognition just as the Parish Priest of St. Theresa Catholic church, Rev. Father Isaac Achi, gave a vivid account of what transpired in a chat with reporters.

At National Hospital, Abuja survivors share experience

At the National Hospital Abuja where at least 24 were brought in dead, a hospital source said most of the dead victims were brought in mutilated beyond recognition. And given the likelihood of difficulty in recognizing the victims, a mass burial may be considered as the closest thing to a decent burial for the victims.

The source said: "Close to 24 bodies were brought in dead on Christmas day. In fact the body count was possible because of the body parts, most of the victims were burnt beyond recognition, while some had their bodies separated by the impact of the bomb blast. As I speak, relations who sought to identify the corpses are not finding it easy due to the burns and separation of body parts. To avert unnecessary confusion, it might be helpful to give the victims mass burial and that is likely to be the case in the long run."

At the emergency unit of the hospital, victims were seen receiving treatments, while hospital officials declined to speak further on the conditions of victims, citing lack of authority to do so.

Vanguard investigations further revealed that scores of victims whose health conditions are critical have doubled, as emergency and rescue team continued to evacuate injured victims to the hospital.

One of the victims, Peter Nsude recounted his experience: "After church, I came out, somebody now greeted, as we were shaking ourselves, saying 'Happy Christmas,' the bomb exploded. I was with my two sons, but it is only me that was injured, nothing happened to my children."

Officials keep mum at General Hospital, Asokoro

At the General Hospital Asokoro, officials refused to give details on the state of victims brought to the hospital. However sources said unspecified number of both the dead and injured were also brought in.

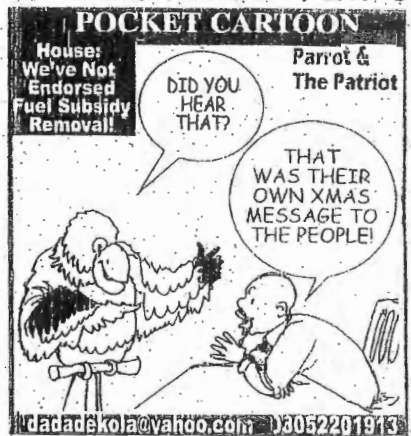
Giving account of what happened, Parish Priest of St. Theresa's Catholic

Church, Rev. Father Isaac Achi, said: "I am the Parish Priest of St. Theresa's Catholic Church where this ugly incident took place. I left here as early as 6 a.m to go for mass, the Eucharistic Celebration in one of our outstations. And at the close of the mass, I was informed that an ugly incident happened and probably they are suspecting it to be in my church. I rushed down. Meanwhile, as I was going, I left my Assistant, in the person of Father Christopher Barde Jatau, to officiate in the Eucharistic celebration."

"I came in only to discover that the whole place has become a carnival of people coming to see the ugly issue that happened. And as you can see, this ugly situation happened probably when the mass was about to close; it was not when people were coming in. The people probably left earlier. Personally, I am suspecting them to be those who are still travelling because we used to have early mass on a day like this so that people can come and have the mass before they can continue with their journey. But they came only for them to meet the end of their lives just at the entrance of the church."

"When I returned to meet my Assistant, he was nowhere to be found. Later, I was made to understand that he took some people to hospitals and I waited for him. On his arrival, he told me how the thing happened and how he felt. Definitely, as a human being, it is not easy. I felt this issue is becoming so alarming, with churches now the targets. And coming to meet people who have come to pray and ask for God's blessing for their dear country, I stand to say 'no' to such a thing and even a repeat of it. You can see so many families gone; the whole households gone. Look at the two vehicles parked in front there (pointing). The first one had five people, the one following it had a family of three and this one at the back (now directly in front of the church) as a result of the explosions, had a family of four."

I know that the Catholic members were the ones affected. These



were Christians who came to pray, especially on this day that we celebrate nativity and the birth of Jesus Christ."

Catholic families hold mass for victims

Pained by the dastardly act, Catholic families yesterday held mass for those who lost their lives in the Madala blast, with a call on the government to act fast to bring perpetrators of the act to justice.

The mass was presided over by the Catholic Bishop of Abuja, Archbishop John Onayekan, Bishop of Minna Diocese, Rev Dr Martins Njoku, Rev Father Raphael Achieve, the Parish Priest and a host of other Rev Fathers.

Archbishop John Onayekan called on the Federal Government to immediately take drastic steps to nip the spate of bombings in the country.

It's a war against Nigerians - Mark

Reacting to the three separate bombings incidents that took place in Madalla, Jos and Damaturu on December 25, Senate President Mark, in a statement by his Special Assistant on Media, Mr. Kola Ologbondiyan, described them as a sacrilege and war against the citizens of Nigeria.

Noting that the despicable acts connote activities of insane members of the society that must be suppressed forthwith, he said: "These spate of bombing and killing of innocent and harmless countrymen and women cannot be a way of life. This is not part of our culture or way of life. Leaders at all levels and across the divide must rise to this unwarranted affront against the people."

Every leader worth his or her name must join the vanguard to preach the gospel of peace, love and reconciliation. God did not make mistake to keep us together as a people with common mission and destiny. Whatever the anger or misgivings, neither our laws nor the Holy books allows unlawful taking of another man's life. This is absurd and totally intolerable."

Senator Mark sympathized with the families of the victims of the bomb blasts, saying that government would ensure that they did not die in vain. He also urged security operatives to redouble their efforts, to contain the situation, stressing that the National Assembly would collaborate with the executive arm of government to ensure security of lives and property across the country.

Also, Chairman, Senate Committee on Media and Publicity, Senator Enyimaya Abaribe, leared that the unabated bombings in Nigeria might throw the country into conflicts if not checked.

Specifically, Abaribe said it was time for leaders especially in the North to rise up against the Boko Haram sect. "We believe the time has come for the elders and opinion leaders where the sect is prevalent to break their seeming code of silence and speak out in condemnation sincerely, at least to save this country from religious conflict and internal division. It is inconceivable that sane minds will just wake up with only one devilish thing in mind; to cause sorrow to families, with a deep psychological trauma on the society, all with the selfish aim of drawing Nigeria to unfortunate period of..."

Continues on Page 4f

TAKE HEART
BY ELLA HANDLE

"Be yourself, everyone else is already taken"
Oscar Wilde

RALPH Waldo Emerson, aptly expressed this state of being: "Of the greatest challenges in life is being yourself in a world that is trying to make you like everyone else". Someone will always be prettier, someone will always be smarter, someone will always be younger, but they will never be you. Don't change so people will like you. Be yourself and the right people will love the real you. You cannot be yourself if you do not understand your beingness. To understand my true essence, I have come to accept me wholeheartedly. Perhaps you can start by asking yourself, what are those things that you value the most? What makes up the essence of who you are? As part of this, contemplate your life and choices. For instance, you can easily know the kind of things you would or wouldn't like to do, and act accordingly.

In understanding my divinity, I have to know and recognise that everyone is a special beautiful light of love, put here on earth for a purpose and has a right to be here. We embrace our humanity with the beauty and grace of knowing that every being is an extension of ourselves, irrespective of race, beliefs or status. So let your goodwill and intentions reflect in all that you do. Love yourself, no one can do that better than you. Love the beautiful virtues of truth, kindness, love, joy and charity that you embrace and every other thing will follow.

Life is not fixed; we are always growing and re-emerging into new awareness. It is true that everyone differs in terms of how we relate with events in our lives, but to allow yourself a healthy space to grow, to improve, and to become wiser is the most uplifting experience that life offers every moment. Be you!

NEWS

Continues from Page 5

Boko Haram: Outrage over Xmas massacre

and crisis. The senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as a symbol of Nigeria's unity shall resist this attempt to drag us to internal conflict and disunity. This specter of bombing is becoming an annual ritual. It is one too many and which has cast the country as a terrorists hot spot in international community."

ACF condemn blasts says it can lead to religious crisis. Umbrella organisation of all Northern socio-cultural associations, Arewa Consultative Forum, ACF yesterday condemned the blasts, warning that they were capable of causing

religious crisis which would not serve anybody any good in the country. ACF National Publicity Secretary, Mr. Anthony Sani, who made the organisation's position in a statement in Kaduna, also said that the Western education over which the Boko Haram was apparently fighting innocent people was not necessarily the cause of the collapse of national ideals, moral values and discipline in the polity, as there were both Muslim and Christian countries with western education that were morally sound. ACF's statement read in

part: "The spate of bomb blasts on Christmas day, which were directed at places of worship across some parts of the North is a serious source of concern to ACF; to Northern leaders and to the good people of the North; indeed, to patriotic Nigerians. It is a source of concern not because past bombings were less serious but because those on the Christmas day are capable of diverting attention to religious crises that would serve no one, including the perpetrators, any good now and for a long time to come. Consequently,

ACF calls on the perpetrators of violence to stop forthwith and avail themselves of due process of addressing perceived grievances that are in place."

Crisis festered because of Govt's wrong approach - ACN

On its part, the ACN accused the Federal Government of wasting valuable time and resources on the meaningless fuel subsidy debate while neglecting the Boko Haram crisis that had continued to consume

the lives of innocent citizens.

In a statement issued in Lagos by its National Publicity Secretary, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, a day after dozens were killed in a seemingly coordinated attacks across three states, the party said if the government had spent half of the resources it had devoted to the fuel subsidy issue on the Boko Haram crisis, and had organized as many consultations with stakeholders on Boko Haram as it had done on fuel subsidy, the crisis would have been resolved by now and hundreds of

precious lives saved.

"There is no point in mincing words: This government has got its priorities wrong and has acted in a manner that suggests total disregard for human lives. Or how else does one explain a situation where citizens, including security agents, are being hacked down daily by the Boko Haram insurgents and all the government is doing is to waste time and resources on the phantom fuel subsidy issue?" ACN queried.

The party said, for the umpteenth time, that the only way out of the Boko Haram crisis was engagement. "The engagement must be preceded by a meeting of national stakeholders on security, which will harness the experience and wisdom of key people, including former heads of state, traditional and religious leaders, as well as past and present security and intelligence chiefs in seeking a lasting solution to the problem," it said and urged President Goodluck Jonathan to show leadership and emulate his predecessor, who showed rare courage by engaging the Niger Delta militants through the very successful amnesty programme, after all attempts to crush the militants failed.

"For now the federal government has got the diagnosis of the Boko Haram wrong, which means it is basing its solutions on a wrong premise. Though some will have us believe otherwise, the Boko Haram crisis is a reaction to some perceived acts of injustice and corruption, which makes it a social and political crisis rather than an ethnic or religious one. Some even see it wrongly as a North-South-South agenda.

"It is also important to learn a lesson or two from the resolution of the militancy in the Niger Delta. While the Niger Delta militants complained of massive neglect of their communities, impoverishment of their people and destruction of their flora and fauna, the Boko Haram insurgents have raised the issues of injustice, poverty and corruption, and the extrajudicial killing of their leaders and members. All these are legitimate issues."

Continues on Page 52



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BOKO HARAM ATTACKS:

Adeboye, Oritsejafor, Oyedepo spit fire

- Okonkwo, Uma Ukpai, others also; urge Christians to be ready
- Islam, Christianity not at war, says Sultan
- It's impossible to police all Nigeria— Azazi

BY SAM EYOBOKA & DANIEL IDONOR

LAGOS — CHRISTIAN leaders led by the National President of the Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN, Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor, yesterday reviewed Christmas day bomb attacks by Boko Haram sect that killed more than 40 worshippers as they trooped out of St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Madalla, near Abuja and declared that enough is enough, vowing that Christians

Continues on Page 5

Two dead, scores injured in Lagos carnival

•P. 8

Rep seeks support for SPDC over Bonga oil spill

•P.12

Cult clashes kill three in Benue

•P. 16



SULTAN MEETS JONATHAN: President Goodluck Jonathan (I) welcoming the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar III to the State House, Abuja for a meeting with the Islamic leader on the security situation in the country yesterday. Photo: Aboyonu Adeshida.

DEAR BUNMI

Will I be a good husband? •P.10

Mr & Mrs

THIS YEAR IS ALMOST GOING TO AN END. IT'S SUCH A SHAME THAT YOU DIDN'T FULFIL HALF OF YOUR PROMISES!

I'M SORRY DEAR, I PROMISE TO IMPROVE ON MY PROMISES. HENCE FORTH!

dadadekola@yahoo.com
08036211000

Eti-Osa vs Jonathan - SC Court delivers judgment today

NEWS

Boko Haram: Adebayo, Oritsejafor, Oyedepo spit fire

Continues from Page 1
would henceforth fight to defend themselves.

In a statement that chronicled several attacks and killings of Christians and destruction of their places of worship, the Christian leaders said: "We have hitherto exercised restraint in our public statements on these matters. However, we cannot continue to do so indefinitely, and are determined that in the year 2012, if these unprovoked attacks continue, and Christians remain unprotected by the security agencies, then we will have no choice but to defend our lives and property and take our own steps to ensure our safety and security".

The statement was signed by CAN president, Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor; General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, Pastor E.A. Adebayo; Bishop Mike Okonkwo of The Redeemed Evangelical Mission; Bishop David Oyedepo of Winners Chapel; Rev Felix Omobude, Evangelist Uma Ukpai, Rev.(Mrs)

Mercy Ezekiel and Pastor Wale Adefarasin.

Also yesterday, the Sultan of Sokoto and spiritual leader of all the Muslims in Nigeria, Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar III, after over two hours meeting with President Jonathan, declared: "There is no conflict between Christians and Muslims, between Islam and Christianity. It is a conflict between evil people and good people and the good people are more than the evil doers. The good people must come together to defeat the evil ones."

The Christian leaders in their statement yesterday said, "Nigerians awoke on Christmas morning to the news that Boko Haram had struck again, this time they had bombed St Theresa's Catholic church in Madalla, near Abuja with the loss of up to 40 lives, including children. As the day progressed reports that four other bombs targeting Christians had exploded in Jos and Yobe State, casualty figures were not yet available at the time of writing."

"We are deeply

concerned that Boko Haram sect members and their apologists continue to wage war against Christians, in furtherance of their Islamisation agenda, especially Christians in the North Eastern states, where Boko Haram members first unleashed their terror. The terrorist group in their media ranting claim that they unleashed violence on innocent Nigerians in reprisal for the killing of their leader, Yussuf. It was in fact Yussuf that orchestrated and inspired the killing of no fewer than 800 persons, mostly Christians, when it unleashed its first major act of unprovoked sectarian violence in Maiduguri in July 2009.

"We note with dismay that public condemnation of the atrocities committed by Boko Haram have come mainly from members of the Christian community. We believe that when Muslim clerics, political leaders and leaders of thought from Northern

Nigeria publicly condemn and denounce the activities of Boko Haram it will go a long way to quelling this threat to our future peaceful coexistence."

Apart from the ransacking and wanton destruction of churches and personal belongings of numerous Christians, three Pastors including Rev. George Orji, who was beheaded by Yussuf, were brutally massacred. Pastor Orji's widow and children were relocated and settled by the Christian leadership in view of Boko Haram's continued hostility in Maiduguri. A recent example of their persisting terror is to be found in the early morning attack of December 21st, 2011 in Maiduguri, Borno State. On that occasion, their members walked into the home of Pastor Peter Wakai, and murdered both himself and his son in cold blood. "This was after his church had closed down because of the tension that prevails



in the city. At the time of this release the road into Putiskon, Yobe State was blocked by Boko Haram to facilitate them wage their war on innocent citizens of the town. On November 27th about eight Churches were torched and four people reportedly killed by what were benignly and erroneously described as irate Islamic youths. No mosque was razed; no Muslim was killed".

Nigerian security forces, including the Police Force have also suffered at the hands of these terrorists as they have also been targeted and many have lost their

lives to attacks by these terrorists; we strongly decry this and commiserate with their families".

It is difficult to police all spots
—Azazi

Also speaking with newsmen at the Villa, The National Security Adviser, NSA, Gen. Andrew Azazi who attended the meeting admitted that it was absolutely difficult to man every point of the country when there are security problems.

Continues on Page 15

Islam, Christianity not at war — Sultan

"We are totally against what has been happening, we totally condemn all these. Nobody can take anybody's life, it's unislamic, it's ungodly, all lives are sacred, must be respected and protected by all."

MEANWHILE, the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar III has condemned the Christmas Day bomb blasts across the country, saying the group was evil and both religions must come together to put a stop to their activities. Speaking with newsmen after meeting President Goodluck Jonathan for over two hours behind closed doors, the Sultan said: "We came in here to felicitate and commiserate with Mr. President over the unfortunate incident that happened this period. We've had very positive meeting with the President on so many things and how to move this country forward, how to make our country stable and to approach those challenges that are facing Nigeria on a common ground."

"I want to assure all Nigerians that there is no conflict between Christians and Muslims, between Islam and

Christianity. It is a conflict between evil people and good people and the good people are more than the evil doers. The good people must come together to defeat the evil ones and that is the message. We want to assure all our Christian brothers and leaders that we stand on the path of truth according to our religion that we will continue to work Insha Allah for the greatness of this country."

"As I said, there is no conflict between Islam and Christianity and I want to assure that we will do all we can in the best of our ability to solve the numerous problems confronting our country", he said.

Asked what was agreed on as a way out of the crisis, the Sultan disclosed that the government will look at all the past reports "including the one set up by the President on the North East crisis, also the Solomon Lar report on the Plateau and other

reports and at the resumption of work Mr. President and his team will look through all those reports and then call for a meeting of a larger body for consultation with all of us, both religious and traditional leaders. So we believe that is a very good way because we have to close ranks because no where in our two religions both Christianity and Islam that says we should be violent in dealing with one another".

Answering another question that religious leaders have not spoken out enough, he said: "Have we not been speaking out? Did you read the press statement I issued out the day before yesterday (Sunday)? What else do you want us to say? We are totally against what has been happening, we totally condemn all these. Nobody can take anybody's life, it's unislamic, it's ungodly, nobody can take anybody's life, all lives

are sacred, must be respected and protected by all. So we have been speaking out. We all know what the situations are and we can only advise the government and we have been advising the government on several occasions".

On the allegation that those that have dared to condemn the sect openly have gone back to them out of fear, the Sultan replied: "There is no fear, I only speak as a Muslim leader and you know that we don't say what we don't mean and what we don't do. It is against Islam, a special verse in the Holy Koran said so, don't speak what you don't do. It is distasteful in the eyes of Almighty Allah, but we are quite aware of Almighty Allah's instruction to always speak the truth because we will go back to him to give account for what we have done on earth. So whatever we say to anybody or any group at any time, we wholly mean so".

TAKE HEART
BY ELLA RANDLE

"The art of living does not consist in preserving and clinging to a particular mode of happiness, but in allowing happiness to change its form without being disappointed by the change; happiness, like a child, must be allowed to grow up". - Charles L. Morgan

SOMETIMES, people look outward for material things to bring happiness. Many of the things we desire are expensive. But the truth is, the things that really satisfy us are totally free; like love, laughter and working on our passions, dreams, hopes and aspirations.

Contentedness, on the other hand, is a matter of being satisfied with what you have. It influences happiness. However, you can choose to be content, just as you can choose to be happy, and if you choose to be content, you will be happy. If you're not happy with who you are on the inside, you won't be happy with anyone else either. You have to create stability in your own life first before you can share it with someone else.

There are many ways to become happy — you can become happy by engaging in the things you like and love to do. Remember, being happy does not mean everything will be perfect, it means you have decided to look beyond the imperfections which is part of your humanity and to embrace a wholesome attitude of striving for excellence; which means, taking the next step to try and do better but knowing that whatever we can do at the moment is enough, we are enough for love.

Happiness is a state of being, and every time I recall this statement from the writer of the Pooh Bear series, a fictional anthropomorphic bear created by A.A. Milne. I realize how close he had captured this state into reality. "Well," said Pooh, "what I like best," and then he had to stop and think. Because although Eating Honey was a very good thing to do, there was a moment just before you began to eat it which was better than when you were, but he didn't know what it was called". I'd like to call this state of being 'har'.

NEWS



VISIT: President Goodluck Jonathan (right) and the outgoing High Commissioner of The Republic of Zambia to Nigeria, H.E. Alex Luhila, during his farewell visit to the President at Aso Villa, Abuja. Photo by Abayomi Adeshida.

Senior civil servants task FG on budget implementation

L A G O S — T H E Association of Senior Civil Servants of Nigeria, ASCSN, yesterday called on the Federal Government to ensure effective implementation of the 2012 budget to regain public confidence.

Secretary General of the association, Mr Solomon Onaghinon, said in Lagos that only about 34 per cent of projects earmarked for implementation in annual budgets were usually carried out.

He said: "What happens to others and their allocations?"

He said that the inability of the government to live up to its words had made many Nigerians to lose confidence in it.

The unionist said Nigerians were not confident that the government would utilise the expected windfall from the removal of fuel subsidy if it is finally removed.

Onaghinon said: "The greatest problem in Nigeria now is making people to believe the policies and promises of the Federal Government."

"Some of the government policies are difficult to understand because they are not fulfilled."

Onaghinon urged the Federal Government to resuscitate Nigeria's refineries before removing the subsidy.

He said that Nigerians would not be able to support government plans on the deregulation of the downstream sector of the petroleum industry, if the refineries were not functioning.

Cassava bread: No health hazards—FG

BY CHRIS OCHAYI & CALEB AVANSINA.

A B U J A — F E D E R A L Government has explained that there was no health implication associated with consumption of the cassava bread, as being speculated in some quarters.

Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, at a meeting with master bakers in Abuja, however, reiterated the government's position on the 18 months ultimatum issued to bakers to move towards 40% substitution of high quality cassava flour.

Dr Adesina stated further that critics of the revolutionary plan in the agricultural sector by the government were enemies of Nigerian farmers who took solace in the importation of food for their selfish interest.

He said: "Why must it be that anytime we talk about eating our own food, people begin to raise health crisis as excuse?"

"Food Industry is based on research and development. So, as long as you stick to the set standard, there will not be any problem."

Adesina maintained that government had what it takes and had planned to focus on diversifying product and market opportunities for cassava for Nigerian

farmers. He said: "Government has raised the tariff on imported wheat to encourage the substitution of wheat flour with high quality cassava flour. To encourage this, all equipment and machinery for processing high quality cassava flour and composite flours will attract zero

taxes. Furthermore, all flourmills and producers of high quality cassava flour who attain the 40% substitution with high quality cassava flour will receive a 12% tax rebate. With effect from March 31, 2012, the importation of cassava flour will be prohibited. All bakers will have within 18 months to move towards

40% substitution of high quality cassava flour."

Madalla bomb blast victims responding to treatment

BY LAIDE AKINBOADE

A B U J A — V I C T I M S of Christmas Day bomb blast at St. Theresar's Catholic Church, Madalla, Niger State, taken to the National Hospital, Abuja, are responding to treatment.

A staff of the hospital, who spoke on condition of anonymity told Vanguard yesterday, that the doctors were doing their best to ensure the patients got the best treatment the hospital could give.

He said: "The doctors are working around the clock to ensure that the victims of the bomb blast are given the best medical attention and are stabilized."

It would be recalled that a bomb blast occurred on Christmas

Day, very close to St. Theresar's Church Madalla, where lives were lost, with sections of the church damaged and vehicles and shops destroyed.

The Federal Government, through the National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA, has put the official figure of casualties at 26. The dead bodies have been deposited in the mortuaries while many injured people from the explosion are receiving treatments in hospitals.

Corpses of over 24 persons who were killed at St. Theresar's Catholic Church, Madalla, Niger State in last Sunday's, bombing had been deposited at the National Hospital, Abuja.

Adeboye, Oritsejafor, Oyedepo, on Boko Haram attacks

Continues from Page 5

Azazi while assuring Nigerians that the security operatives were working to ensure they are on top of the situation, regretted that it was difficult to police all trouble spots in Nigeria.

Asked why it was difficult to check the recurring incidents along the Suleja-Zuba axis, he replied, "It is absolutely difficult to man every point of the country when there are security problems. Like I have said before, there is need for security awareness. There is need for public participation so that there must be cooperation between security and the society for us to make progress."

On possible reprisal by the Christians over the Christmas bombings, the NSA said, "We can't have a situation where we think that one bad turn deserves another. We are Nigerians and like we always say, I don't see any major conflict between the Christian community and the Muslim community. You will find a situation where, certain individuals for whatever reasons are causing these problems. Have we thought of what

their ultimate intentions are? Why will somebody go on to bomb Christians on a Christmas Day? Look at the ultimate intentions. Do they want to really raise temper elsewhere? I think the Christian leaders, CAN, are meeting tomorrow (today) to emphasise to the Christians that we must live together as a nation. Retaliation is not the answer because if you retaliate, at what point will it end?"

Nigeria must survive as a nation, that is the key thing."

It's inhuman, barbaric —Oritsejafor

Denouncing the bomb attacks, earlier, Pastor Oritsejafor said, "this is a barbaric and most uncivilized action of human beings in a civilized world. Even animals have respect for each other. It is inhuman! It is inhuman! It is barbaric! It is satanic!"

He wondered why certain characters are sponsoring these acts of violence on fellow human beings "and go home without any feeling of guilt. I am not talking of people who are used to

carry out the dastardly acts but those who sponsor them. So these people go home, eat and probably have children who they play with in their homes."

Let us not deceive ourselves, as good as religion is, it can be a terrible thing because it is only religion that can give a man the conviction to do this kind of thing. It is incredible. Christmas is a day when over 80 million Nigerians join billions of fellow Christians across the globe to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, wouldn't you just respect that?

"I don't think anybody who cannot respect such a sacred date will have any respect for human life. It is totally barbaric and unacceptable. I am short of words to describe how I feel."

According to him, Nigeria must brace up to face the truth that there is a grand design to Islamise the nation, and that is why Christian leaders would soon meet to address the issue frontally once and for all, directing doubting Thomases to ancient history to find out how Egypt, Libya and most of the North African nations became Islamic countries.

Vanguard

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N150

2012: As the curtain falls:
**Months of
 miseries herald
 a hazy new year**



From right: Amb. Joe Keshi, Vice-Chairman, UBA Plc; Mr. Phillips Oduoza, GMD/CEO and Chiel Israel Ogbue, Chairman, at the Court-Ordered Meeting in Lagos on Thursday.



Boko Haram targets religious war—PRESIDENCY

As Jonathan orders manhunt for sponsors

BY DANIEL IDONOR & PAUL ODENYI

Donu Kogbara
Sweet & SOUR
 Man of the Year

Names of those who died in Madalla blast

Below is a list victims of the Xmas bombing at St. Theresa Catholic Church, Madalla, Niger State.

Anthony Okoronkwo; Comrade Dike A. Williams, Emmanuel Dike, Richard Dike, Lillian Dike, Linda Chionia Obiukwu, Uche Q. Obiukwu, Chidinma Cythia Obiukwu, Ifeoma G. Obiukwu, Ann Chinedu Aigbadon, Chiemeri Nwachukwu, Cecilia Ebeku, Oluebube Faustina Pius, Chidera Sylvia Pius, Florence Nwachukwu, Eucharia Ewoh, Joseph Daniel, Inspector Titus Eze, Obasi Jonathan Onyebuchi, Ehiawaguan Peter, Uche Esiri, Sgt. Kadiri Danjuma, Unidentified person (5)

See more names and pics on Page 6

KILLED IN MADALLA BLAST



ABUJA—THE Presidency, said, yesterday, that the spate of bombings in the country by the militant Muslim group, Boko Haram, was to provoke the Christian community and drag them into a religious war.

Meanwhile, Vanguard gathered that President Goodluck Jonathan, at a meeting with Service Chiefs and other

Continues on Page 5

Mr & Mrs

WHAT'S THE FUSS ABOUT? I ONLY STROLLED AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD TO WISH EVERYBODY HAPPY NEW YEAR IN ADVANCE.

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NEWS

Boko Haram targets religious war— Presidency

Continues from Page 1

members of the National Security Committee, at the Presidential Villa in Abuja, mandated them (service chiefs) to go after Boko Haram.

He asked them to fish out the sponsors of the Boko Haram group. Vanguard learnt that the President also ordered a thorough overhaul of the operational strategies of the security agencies in dealing with the Boko Haram violence.

On the aim of Boko Haram to cause religious war in the country, the Federal Government noted that it was working hard to stave off inter-religious tension in the country in the wake of the Christmas day bombing of some religious worship centres around the country.

Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs, Dr. Ahmed Gulak, who addressed newsmen in Abuja, said the series of consultations between President Jonathan and religious leaders in the country were meant to reassure them that there was no conflict between the two major religious groups in the country.

He said: "As a way out of the security situation in Nigeria, the President has been

doing his best. You are aware that he has been consulting with religious leaders, including the Sultan, who is the spiritual head of the Muslims and the Christian Association of Nigeria. Some mischief makers are trying to catch in on the situation to create a scenario where people will feel as though there is conflict between Islam and Christianity.

"But this is just terrorist tactics to set up society against one another and luckily enough, Nigerians have already known this tactics and will not buy it.

The Madalla bomb blast unfortunate.

"The Madalla bomb blast was unfortunate, it was sad and every concerned citizens really felt bad. This country belongs to all of us. Mr. President through the votes of all of us is the president today and anybody who through this dastardly act wants to distract the attention of the President is only fighting the whole nation. And, the terrorists in our midst, we pray for God to reveal them.

Dr Gulak also faulted the statement by opposition groups, particularly the Action Congress of Nigeria, saying it appeared the party had got a running mouth disease.

According to him: "The statement by the opposition and especially the ACN in particular is unfortunate. Some of them have the running mouth disease and if people such as Lai Mohammed with their experience and what they have professed to have and what they claimed to be, nationalists keep on making derogatory statement about the government and about the nation then it is unfortunate that this disease of theirs 'the running mouth' is incurable and Nigerians should see them as such.

"The transformation agenda of Mr. President is the best thing that would happen to the country and some people feel they can distract the government and deny Nigerians of this positive change. God will not allow them.

"For the security challenges we are facing, Mr. President and security operatives are working round the clock to see to it that these challenges are tackled and we hope and pray that with the new strategy the security operatives are adopting, these things will be things of the past.

"I call on all Nigerians to exhibit the needed patience and give the government the needed support to benefit from the transformation agenda."

The political adviser recommended the security agencies for their efforts, saying their work had showed in the number of arrests and prosecution of people associated with violent crimes around the country.

He said, however, that the judiciary should rise up to the occasion by expediting action on cases of that nature to serve as deterrent to others who might still be in business of planning terrorism in the country.

"But I believe that the security agencies are doing their best, and what are the results? Arrests have been made of these perpetrators, and they are being prosecuted in court.

"All our pleading is that our judicial system should get a system that will fast-track these prosecution because it is clear when people come and bomb innocent citizens by the time the security moves in arrest the people, Amnesty International will come hard on the government that they are violating human rights; that is why the system is so slow.

Suspects in court

"Suspects have been taken to court, and the court will follow the normal procedure which usually take a long time. I think the system has to change, there has to be a way to transform the system to fast track the prosecution of all the suspects. But I will tell you that the security agents are not sitting on their oars' he said.

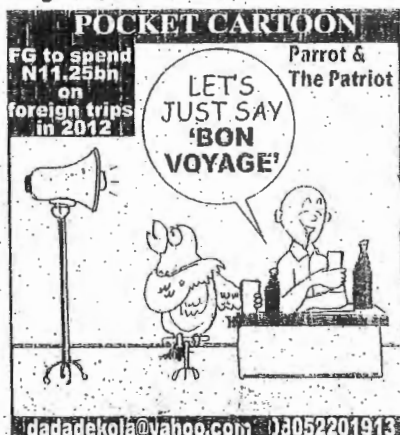
"Don't forget that Nigeria is a country of over 167 million people; don't also forget that with our size, our security system is not a match for the population. We only have little above 300,000 policemen for 167 million people. The SSS is just about 33,000 personnel. So when these people threaten to bomb, they don't specifically say where they will bomb.

The Chief of Defence Staff, Air Chief Marshal Oluseyi Petinrin, who attended the meeting of security chiefs with the President disclosed that the President had taken crucial decisions that will soon be made public.

Also, the Inspector General of Police, IGP, Mr Hafiz Ringim, said security agencies were closing-in on the foot soldiers of Boko Haram as several members of the group had been arrested, while the Nigeria Police was seeking more evidence to arrest and prosecute their sponsors.

The IG assured Nigerians, especially Christians that would want to attend the Cross Over Service in their various churches, to overlook alleged threats by the sect to bomb various churches on new year's eve, saying his men were on top of their game to foil such attempts.

Pleading with members of the public to



cooperate with security agencies and volunteer information that would lead to more arrests, Ringim noted that the efforts made by the police in Yobe, Kano and Kaduna State, prevented the catastrophe that would have taken place if they did not act swiftly.

Ringim, who fielded questions from State House correspondents, after the emergency meeting which held at the presidential villa, and attended by the National Security Adviser, NSA, Gen. Andrew Azazi, Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Azubuike Ihejirika, Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Ola Saad Ibrahim, Chief of Air Staff, Air Vice Marshal Mohammed Umar and Director General State Security Service, SSS, Ita Ekpenyong, Director-General, Nigeria Intelligence Agency, NIA, Olaniyi Oladeji. Ringim said President Jonathan expressed concern about the security challenges in the country, adding that it was why the meeting was summoned to review the situation, "where we were, where we are now and where we need to be, that is what we discussed."

Asked why it was so difficult to tackle the insecurity issue, the IGP said "We are all worried; terrorism is not an easy matter at all. Terrorism is everywhere all over the world, particularly here in this country. As you are aware; it is a very new phenomenon here.

"We have not had this kind of thing before and we are just having it now, so we are all scrambling to find our feet on a face it squarely, that is what we are doing."

"Security agencies and, most importantly, Nigerian Police, has made a lot of gains

which have not come to the fore. I want to seize this opportunity and tell everyone of us to remain resolved and resolute to join in the fight against this cancerworm that will not leave anyone of us if we do not put our acts together.

"I mean the Nigerian Police Force, security agencies and you journalists and all members of the public. This is something that should galvanise us in our quest to remain together and also to bring down the scourge."

Police ready for Cross-over night — IG

On the preparedness of the Police for December 31, the cross over night, the IGP said "I assure you we are doing our possible best. We are prepared more than ever before and I want to assure you that if we had not done what we did in Yobe, if we had not done what we did in Kaduna, indeed, if the Nigerian Police Force had not done what we did in Kano, the recovery of the primed up suicide bombing vehicles, the story would have been a different one.

"I assure you members of the public that the Nigerian Police Force and, indeed, all other security agencies are now ready more than ever before to face these challenges."

On arrests so far made, Ringim said: "The arrest of these terrorists has been going on for a long time. Many, many of them have been arrested and many of them are in detention. They are in the process of being prosecuted.

"The issue is not the number of arrests, the issue is the cooperation that all the security agencies need from each and everyone of us"

TAKE HEART
BY ELLA RANDLE

"Be thou the rainbow in the storms of life. The evening beam that smiles the clouds away, and tints tomorrow with prophetic ray"—Lord Byron

WHEN we see the beauty of life in everything, the everyday seemingly normal experiences holds within its fabric, the golden seeds which germinate the rich bloom of joy, laughter and love. Every breath is love's gift, and each day begins with the promise of great things to come. Always take time to whiff the fragrance of a rose every now and then, and enjoy its beauty. In essence, life like a rose has its thorns, but it is merely insignificant compared to the beauty and joy it brings. A beautiful life is like the reminiscence of sunny rays with better days ahead.

We make our world a song of golden laughter that cuddles our hearts in delight to its true reality of love. Indeed, it is a beautiful place every time we recognise our divinity; we recognise also our right to be here and also knowing that our freedom interlace with others. For instance, my freewill stops where yours begins, and this consideration makes it easier for me to accord respect to another as I would want for myself.

Endeavour to make an effort each day to remember to see the "Good" in another human being. It does not matter if those I meet recognize this within themselves in order to qualify to be loved. I remember, and in being and reflecting the shining light of love, the rays of divine love beams its radiance to all I meet.

May you find these metaphors and insights useful to you. And may it give you the wings to fly endlessly to the throne of love with a grateful heart as we enjoy the blessings of a beautiful new season.

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Court dismisses N40bn case against Bankole, Nafada

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Revisiting Nigeria Pg 17



Hakeem Baba-Ahmed

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DEAR HUNNI

Is having another baby wise at my age?

P.39

Boko Haram attacks Air Force barracks

- **Kills 5; It's time to deal with sect** — Army Chief
- **SSS quiz Shekarau; it's a lie, he says**
- **Splinter group, Ansaru emerges**

BY EMMA UJAH, ALBERT AKPOR, KINGSLEY OMONOBI & NDAHI MARAMA

ABUJA—In Continuation of its plan to Islamize Northern Nigeria, the Boko Haram Islamic Sect on Monday night invaded the Nigerian Air Force, NAF, barracks as well as a police station in Maiduguri, Borno State, killing five persons including a soldier, two policemen and

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TRAINING—From right: Mr Terry Carille, Director, TLC Solution; Mrs Omobola Johnson, Minister of Communications Technology and Mr Jim Ovia, Founder/Chairman, Youth Empowerment & ICT Foundation at the Developing Africa's Next Generation of Software Entrepreneurs training in Lagos. Photo: Kehinde Gbadamosi.



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NEWS

Boko Haram attacks Air Force barracks, kills five

Continues from Page 1

two civilians. Also, two other civilians were reportedly injured, as the sect members bombed the Gambouru/Ngala police station, the Joint Task Force, JTF, check point. The incident was said to have occurred at about 6.30 pm. Gambouru/Ngala is a border town with Chad Republic and 150 kilometres North-East of Maiduguri, the state capital.

To cripple the sect, the Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen. Azubuike Ihejirika, yesterday, canvassed decisive actions against it, warning that the earlier the government took the bull by the horn and acted decisively, the better for the future of the nation. He anchored the need for decisive steps on the fact that the menace had spread to other parts of West Africa.

Ihejirika's warning came on a day the Department of State Security Service (SSS) quizzed immediate past Governor of Kano State, Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau over his alleged involvement in the sponsorship of the sect.

Time to deal with sect —Ihejirika

Welcoming members of the House of Representatives Committee on Internal Security to Army Headquarters, Ihejirika said Boko Haram and other security issues could not be solved by a wave of the hand.

He thanked the National Assembly for its concern for the well-being of the country. He said that the Nigerian Army remained apolitical and committed to the job of supporting civil authorities to enhance security.

He reiterated his call on the citizenry to provide all the support required by those in arms to serve the nation better.

Noting that soldiers were the representatives of Nigerians when it comes to the force of arms, he said, "you need to recall the phrase that war is of such importance that it cannot be left in the hands of the security agencies alone, just as national security issues cannot be left in the

hands of service personnel alone."

The Army boss urged all well meaning Nigerians to aid the crusade, expose evil among the people so that the problem could be nipped quickly for the nation to move forward.

"I can tell you that this development, even the problem of Almajiri and so on cannot be solved just by a wave of the hand. So we are delighted to have you in our midst and note your resolve at working with us to solve this problem at hand."

Continuing he said, "we are also looking beyond the confines of this country; the whole of the West African region is looking up to this country to find a solution to the menace of Boko Haram because it is no longer news that the Boko Haram issue is not limited to the confines of our borders and the earlier they act decisively, the better for the future of this nation."

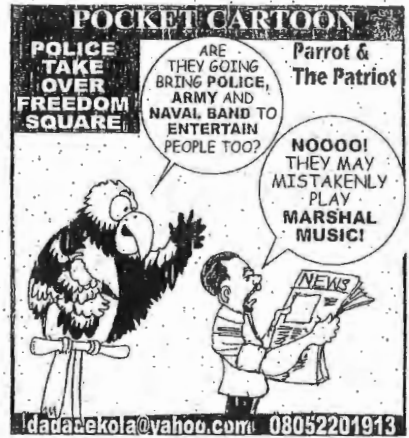
Maiduguri killings

Confirming the Maiduguri attacks, the Borno State Police Public Relations Officer, Samuel Tizhe said, the attacks were simultaneously carried out at both the Air Force Barracks and the Gambouru/Ngala police station between 6pm and 6.30 pm, adding that the suspected gunmen attacked one of the apartments in the barracks and fired several gun shots at the soldier, who was returning to the house in multi. According to the police, the sect members also killed two other civilians resident in the barracks after killing the soldier in multi. The Gambouru/Ngala police station was attacked with guns and other explosive devices, killing the two police officers on duty, and injuring two others; on their way to the office. Gambouru/Ngala is one of the five local governments in Borno where President Goodluck Jonathan declared a state of emergency on December 31, last year. The police spokesman said the bodies of the soldier and two civilians have been deposited at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital,

UMTH, for identification by their relations.

He however said that no arrests had been made over the attacks but investigations were on going.

The Fields Operations Officer of JTF, Col. Victor Ebhaleme said that no soldier was killed at the Polo military checkpoint attacks, adding that the only soldier who was shot in the arm had been treated and discharge from the UMTH.



SSS quiz ex-gov Shekarau •He was never arrested —aide

THE SSS reported quizzed former Governor Shekarau over his alleged involvement in sponsoring Boko Haram just as his spokesman, Sule Yau Sule, said the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) 2011 presidential flagbearer was not under arrest, contrary to online reports. Shekarau was invited to the Abuja headquarters of the SSS and questioned for several hours on what he knew about the funding and membership of the sect, which has claimed responsibility for series of bomb and gun attacks, leading to the death of about 1000 persons in various parts of Northern Nigeria. As learnt, the security agency allowed him to go after the interrogation but informed him that he would be re-invited for further questioning if considered necessary as the allegations against him were alleged to be weighty. It was gathered that Malam Shekarau denied any involvement with Boko Haram, saying that there was peace during his tenure because he ran a government where every segment was carried along. Shekarau had said at the beginning of the week that his successor, Alhaji Rabiu Kwankwano, was to blame for the deadly attacks on Kano by Boko Haram, for dismantling, among others, his security arrangement in the state,

which ensured peace among people of various religious and ethnic divide. The former governor also accused the incumbent of refusing to provide necessary support for some of such structures he established while in office, as well as being high-handed in dealing with some members of the public, which he did not specifically identify. Shekarau's position

came shortly after Boko Haram announced that it was on the payroll of some Northern governors, a claim that has been contested by the Forum of Northern Governors. Meanwhile, Shekarau's spokesman, Sule Yau has debunked claims that his principal was arrested and described the reports as the wicked imagination of persons needlessly unsettled by the growing popularity of the former governor.

Splinter group, Ansaru emerges

MEANWHILE, indications have emerged that an ideological feud within the rank and file of the Boko Haram sect may have led to a breakaway faction. The new outfit calls itself 'Ansaru'. In a statement circulated in Kano, Ansaru gave its full name as "Ansarul Muslimina Fi Biladis Sudan," meaning Vanguard for the Protection of Muslims in Black Africa. Its motto is "Jihad Fi Sabilillah," meaning it is fighting and sacrificing for Allah's cause. The statement was signed by one Abu Usamata Al'Ansari, who claimed to be its leader. Ansaru expressed displeasure with Boko Haram's style of operations, which it described as inhuman to the Muslim Ummah. It vowed to

restore dignity and sanctity to "the lost dignity of Muslims in black Africa" and to bring back the dignity of Islam in Nigeria and the Sokoto Caliphate, founded by Othman Dan Fodio in 1804, which spread across Niger Republic, Cameroon and some other West African countries. Ansaru's logo shows the Qur'an, with a gun on both sides. Attached to the guns are black flags with the inscription, "There is no deity but Allah and Muhammad is His Messenger". The statement said: "For the first time, we are glad to announce to the public the formation of this group that has genuine basis. We will have dispassionate look into everything, to encourage what is good and see to its spread and to discourage evil and try to eliminate it."

TAKE HEART

BY ELLA RANDLE

"We tend to forget that happiness doesn't come as a result of getting something we don't have, but rather of recognizing and appreciating what we do have." —Fredrick Keonig

ARISTOTLE, in one of his most influential works, addressed key questions that are still relevant centuries after. In these lectures, he seeks to highlight these points. What is the ultimate purpose of human existence? What is that end or goal for which we should direct all of our activities? Everywhere we see people seeking pleasure, wealth, and a good reputation. But while each of these has some value, none of them can occupy the place of the chief good for which humanity should aim. Aristotle claims that nearly everyone would agree that happiness is the end which meets all this requirements.

"A rich industrialist was appalled to find a fisherman lying lazily beside his boat, enjoying his drink of sweet wine. Why aren't you out fishing he asked the fisherman? "Because I have caught enough fish for the day, he replied the industrialist.

"Why don't you catch some more, you could earn more money with the proceed, you can buy bigger boat and go into deeper waters and catch more fish and then you would become a rich man like me. And then, you would really enjoy life?" The fisherman looked at him quizzically? And he replied. "What do you think I'm doing now?" Happiness is relative and the grandest state of bliss is to live a meaningful life, and be of service to all and self.

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 VOL. 25: NO. 61550 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2012 N150

Is'haq Modibbo Kawa
 e-mail: kawumodibbo@vanguard.com
Boko Haram and President Jonathan's olive branch of dialogue —P. 17



Madalla bomb blast victims buried amidst tears *P. 5

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Boko Haram Spokesman nabbed

JTF denies Boko Haram Attack —P. 4

- **Boko Haram unleashed by some northern politicians** — Soyinka
- **90% of sect's victims are Muslims** — ACF

BY LUKA BINNIYAT & NDAHI MARAMA

MADALLA BLAST VICTIMS GO HOME



Tears from relatives as victims of the Madalla bomb attack were given mass burial yesterday. Photos: Chenga Olanikan

MAIDUGURI—OFFICIALS of the State Security Service, SSS, in Borno State, yesterday, confirmed that they have dealt dreaded sect, Boko Haram, a major blow by arresting the spokesman of the group Abul Qaqa. He was reportedly arrested in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital.

The arrest, according to Vanguard findings, was

Continues on Page 5

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Part 5.
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NEWS

Boko Haram spokesman nabbed

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effected via GPS tracking of the top Boko Haram chieftain. It was learnt that the SSS has flown Qaqa to Abuja for further interrogation.

A top official of the SSS in Borno told Vanguard on telephone that: "We have finally picked him up and he is currently in

our custody; you can report that as a confirmed development". Also confirming the arrest of Abul-Qaqa, one of the sect members in a telephone interview with newsmen in Maiduguri said: "Our spokesman Abul-Qaqa was arrested by security operatives yesterday."

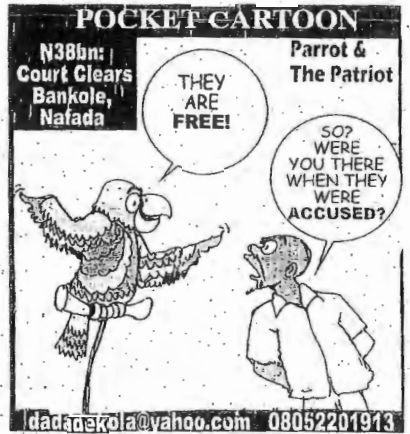
He, however, did not state where in Maiduguri the arrest was effected but he said, in Hausa: *Nakira ku in gaya mu ku cewa an kama Mallam Qaqa*, meaning "I called to tell you that security agencies have arrested one of our scholars, Mallam Qaqa." The first spokesman of Boko Haram, Ali Sanda Umar Kondoga alias Usman Alzawahiri was arrested on November 3, last year.

The arrest of Qaqa came against the backdrop of claims in Kaduna yesterday by the Arewa Consultative Forum, ACF, that the ultimatum by the Boko Haram Islamic sect on southerners living in the North to quit was in reaction to an earlier order by South-South militants on Northerners to quit their area.

ACF said that the South-South militants were the first to ask northerners living in their area to leave, adding that this was what made the Boko Haram to issue the same ultimatum on Christians and other southerners to leave the North.

Last weekend, Qaqa had threatened that Boko Haram would unleash terror against the people of Sokoto in the same manner it attacked Kano city the previous week following allegations that security agents had been arresting members of the group indiscriminately in the seat of the Caliphate. He had asked the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar 111; Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aminu Tambuwal and the Acting Governor of the state to intervene to prevent the proposed attack.

But, ACF, further said after an emergency meeting in Kaduna that 90 per cent of Boko Haram victims were Muslims. The ACF accused the South-South region of first issuing ultimatum to northerners resident in the South-South to leave the area, which forced Boko Haram to respond by asking southerners to leave the North. The group then called on the Federal Government to guarantee the safety of Boko Haram members should they come out for



Boko Haram unleashed by some northern politicians — Soyinka

LAGOS—NOBEL Laureate, Prof Wole Soyinka, yesterday, blamed the emergence of Boko Haram Islamic sect on northern politicians, who use the group to further their political interest.

He accused power-hungry politicians from Nigeria's Muslim north of using indoctrinated young militants, drawn from the ranks of the poor, unemployed and educated in Islamic schools, as "foot soldiers" in a battle over who should control the country.

Speaking after delivering a lecture at the University of South Africa, he said: "Those who unleashed Boko Haram on the nation are politicians. These are the

ones behind Boko Haram, unfortunately one has to point to what section they come from, and that is the north.

"This minority is much focused, very powerful, very rich, they used to be in government, they have accumulated billions. They are the ones who unleashed this monster on the nation."

"They have articulated their conviction that it is their turn to rule Nigeria," he added.

On the way forward, he proposed the holding of a national conference, bringing together all sectors of Nigerian society and all national institutions, to discuss regional grievances and problems and thrash out a national consensus for the future.

er way round. We are not speaking for Boko Haram.

"The ACF notes with grave concerns some serious allegations peddled by certain people to the effect that some people from other sections of the country were conspiring to cause high level of insecurity across the country with the clear intention of making the country ungovernable."

"Some of these allegations go as far as saying that there are plots to assassinate the President. They also allege that southerners were not only being killed but that their attempts to flee the North were being blocked by Northerners.

These allegations have been written and widely publicized in the media. Considering the gravity of the allegations bordering on treason, the forum calls on the government, as a matter of urgency, to investigate them for

the purposes of prosecution.

"The Federal Government should commit itself openly and unambiguously in guaranteeing the security of leaders of Boko Haram when eventually they come out for dialogue as promised by Mr. President. Government should continue to persevere, uncover the true identity of these people, to be able to determine their demands or grievances and address those that may be genuine and in accordance with our laws."

"ACF calls upon all people of good conscience who may have access to members of Boko Haram to urge them to take advantage of secure channels of communication to be provided by the Federal Government towards achieving a resolution of the current bloody impasse," he said.

TAKE HEART BY ELLA RANDLE

Be Content with what you have; rejoice in the way things are. When you realize there is nothing lacking, the whole world belongs to you. — Lao Tzu.

EVERYONE has unique requirements for attaining happiness and what makes one person happy may be very different from what makes someone else happy. Revel in your individuality and do not worry about whether or not your desires are comparable to those of your peers.

"A house may be large or small; as long as the neighbouring houses are likewise small, it satisfies all social requirements for a residence. But let there arise next to the little house a palace, and the little house shrinks to a hut. The little house now makes it clear that its inmate has no social position at all to maintain; or but a very insignificant one; and however high it may shoot up in the course of civilization, the neighbouring palace rises in equal or even in greater measure the occupant of the relatively little house will always find himself more uncomfortable, more dissatisfied, more cramped within his four walls."

It is a choice to allow your happiness and peace of mind to be measured by outer circumstances and other people's standard of success. Truly happy people don't allow setbacks to affect their mood because they know that they can turn the circumstances back to their favour.

Spend a few minutes each day thinking about the things that makes you happy. These few minutes will give you the opportunity to focus on the positive things in your life.

90% of Boko Haram victims are Muslims — ACF

But, ACF, further said after an emergency meeting in Kaduna that 90 per cent of Boko Haram victims were Muslims. The ACF accused the South-South region of first issuing ultimatum to northerners resident in the South-South to leave the area, which forced Boko Haram to respond by asking southerners to leave the North. The group then called on the Federal Government to guarantee the safety of Boko Haram members should they come out for

Madalla bomb blast victims buried amidst tears

VICTORIA OJEME, LAIDE AKINBOADE, CALEB AYANSINA & FUNMI OLASUPO

ABUJA — Amidst tears yesterday, the families, friends and members of St Theresa's Catholic Church, Madalla, buried victims of last Christmas day bomb blast which claimed the lives of 43 persons.

The occasion nearly turned chaotic when the crowd that had assembled for the occasion booed the Emir of Suleja, Mallam Auwal Ibrahim, and prevented him from alighting from his car to deliver his goodwill message as

requested by the Parish priest, Rev. Father Isaac Achi. After his arrival at the gate of the church, the emir was delayed for over 10 minutes before he was allowed inside the compound.

He stayed in the car while the church service for the victims was held. The emir, who was later called by Rev. Father Achi to come and give his goodwill message, was firmly rejected by the crowd with shouts of no!no! The crowd was restive and insisted that he must not make any speech. A source later told Vanguard that the security operatives in the area told the Emir to leave the venue, even

before the burial of the victims.

Meanwhile, in an interview with journalists, representative of President Goodluck Jonathan, Deputy Chaplain of Aso Villa, Pastor Abba Mishella, assured Nigerians that the Federal Government was set to collaborate with other international security agencies to curb the menace of terrorists in the country. He said: "We believe there would be an end to all these bombings soon. The Federal Government has started doing something with the change of the leadership of the Police and we

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Boko Haram kingpin Qaqa, buckles

- Admits he uses several aliases
- Family of six die fleeing sect's attack
- Another six die as multiple blasts rock Maiduguri

BY JIDE AJANI, EMMA UJAH, TAYE OBATERU, TONY EDIKE & NDAHI MARAMA

LAGOS—MORE facts emerged yesterday regarding the condition of acclaimed spokesman for the Jamaatu Ahlul Sunna Lidawati wal Jihad, otherwise known as Boko Haram, Abul Qaqa, after his arrest at about 4 am on Wednesday.

He is said to be providing 'very useful and verifiable information' to the men of the State Security

Continues on Page 6.

Budget 2012: FG to spend N27m on each DPR staff

—P. 6

After three nights in prison, Edo State AG gets bail

• P. 12



GOVS MEET—Old Western Region governors met yesterday at Government House Abeokuta, Oyo State. From left: Govs. Kayode Fayemi, Ekiti, reading the communique; Ibikunle Amosun, Ogun; Babatunde Fasola, Lagos and Rauf Aregbesola of Osun after the meeting. PHOTO: AP/WIDEWORLD

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NEWS

Boko Haram kingpin buckles

Continues from Page 1

Services, SSS. Vanguard gathered that the arrest was actually effected in Kaduna and not Maiduguri as was widely reported.

Also, information made available to Vanguard, yesterday, by very authoritative sources privy to the ongoing interrogation of Qaqa, suggests that the terror suspect has owned up to being the one with the name Abul Qaqa. "He owned up yesterday afternoon," according to the security source, "It should be said that he buckled under intense interrogation."

In a related development, Justice Gabriel Kolawole of a Federal High Court sitting in Abuja, yesterday, threatened to quash all the four-count criminal charge preferred against Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume by the Federal Government, following his alleged convivial relationship with Boko Haram.

Ndume, who is representing Borno South Senatorial District was on December 12, 2011, docked before the High Court on allegation that he violated Sections 7(1) (b) and 3(b) of the Terrorism (Prevention) Act, 2011, by not only

disclosing classified information to the terrorist group, but also furnishing them with phone numbers of top government officials, including that of the Attorney General of the Federation.

Meanwhile, tragedy struck when a family of six died in an auto crash while fleeing from Boko Haram induced terror, just as it was also confirmed that six other persons lost their lives in multiple bomb explosions in Maiduguri, the Borno State Capital.

Spokesman buckles under interrogation

When Vanguard asked the security source whether the notorious interrogation technique known as waterboarding—a technique roundly condemned by a section of security experts in the Western World was being employed, the source emphatically said "No!"

However, the source was able to explain that one of the discoveries during interrogation was that Qaqa operated under many aliases.

He has also been confirmed to be an Igbara from Kogi State as

against the earlier claim that he is Igala from the same state.

In fact, Vanguard discovered that the arrest of Qaqa "was the culmination of months' strenuous efforts by men of the SSS."

Said the source: "We had been on his trail for some months now. He fled from Yobe where he is believed to own a house to Maiduguri, and then Potiskum, Kano before finally hiding in an aunt's residence in Kaduna. The aunt did not want to give him up but for another male member of the household, who did not know the value of the suspect in their house. It was while the said aunt was playing footsy that the male resident of the house prevailed on her to own up."

Vanguard was told that the 'aunt' was also arrested along with Qaqa on Wednesday.

While the intelligence and eventual arrest was carried out by armed men of the SSS, Vanguard was reliably informed that the military was called in for back up. According to the source, "this was meant to avert another Kabir Sokoto-style mess of last month."

As learnt, the confusion over Qaqa's arrest stemmed from the decision of the SSS top echelon to be careful and be sure of his identity before announcing his arrest to avoid a situation where the man in custody could turn out to be someone else other than the spokesman.

An elated team at the "Yellow House" is said to be working hard at arresting all the masterminds of the sect that has spread pain and sorrow to many parts of Northern Nigeria in the last three years.

It was learnt that the security agency would make its latest arrests public after it has satisfied itself of the appropriateness of such a move.

Six die in maiduguri

In Maiduguri, six persons were killed earlier yesterday in Shehuri North Area of the Metropolis.

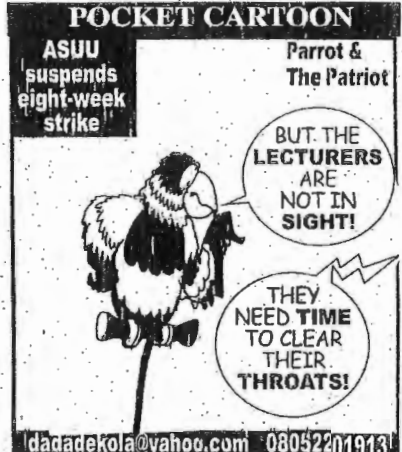
The deaths occurred in the area where 11 alleged Boko Haram

members were reportedly killed over the weekend by members of the Joint Task Force, JTF. A statement by JTF Public Relations Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Hassan Mohammed, said the six persons might have been slaughtered by people suspected to be fellow sect members as a result of a division among them.

In a related development, six explosions rocked Maiduguri early yesterday. The JTF said the bombs were improvised Explosive Devices, IEDs. It said that some of the unexploded IEDs were defused by the JTF.

Meantime, the Borno State Police Command has debunked media reports that a 'Soldier and policemen were killed in fresh Borno attacks.'

Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Samuel Tizhe, said on January 30, 2012 at about 1930 hours, three unknown gunmen attacked the house of one Abubakar Gaji of Old Gomari Airport few metres away from the mini-Airforce



dadadekola@yahoo.com 08052219113

Barracks in Maiduguri and shot two people. Tizhe said the gunmen snatched a Honda Accord car with number plate AR 428 MAG, and on their way out of the area, shot dead a man in mufti alleged to be military personnel who lived in the mini Air Force barracks.

He urged citizenry to be security conscious and report any untoward happenings through JTF Hotlines: (07085464012, 08154429346, and 08064174066.)

Army vows to restore normalcy

Meanwhile, the

General Officer Commanding (GOC) 83 Division, Major General Adamu Buba Marwa has vowed that the Nigerian Army would restore normalcy to the North-East zone of the country which has been plagued by Boko Haram and other insurgencies in recent times.

General Marwa said the division would no longer condone acts of criminality in its operational area, adding that "those who think they can come out to challenge the division will be decisively dealt with."

Fleeing family of six die in auto crash

SIX persons including the head of a family, his wife, three children and their housemaid died in an auto accident while fleeing from their residence in Damaturu, the Yobe State capital over Boko Haram's attacks.

The victims identified as members of Steven Offia's family from Awlum in Udi Local Council, Enugu. State were reportedly crushed to death by a trailer while returning to their home town on Tuesday to escape the bloody attacks by the Islamic sect. The private car driven by the deceased Offia (the family head), was said to have collided with a trailer coming from the opposite direction at Otukpa in Benue State. Offia, who was a panel beater and spare parts dealer in Yobe State, his wife Nneka, four children — three boys and one girl as well as their housemaid were involved in the fatal auto crash.

However, only the second son of the family identified as Chibuzor survived the crash but he was said to be on the danger list at a hospital in Otukpa.

A relation of the deceased family members, Mr. Ben Offia, who confirmed the incident in a chat with Vanguard yesterday, said his deceased brother decided to move members of his family back home following the continued killing of Igbo living in the state by Boko Haram.

According to him, Stephen and his immediate family members left their Damaturu residence on Monday and stopped over at Abuja from where they continued their journey to the East on Tuesday.

"We were shocked to hear from the police on Wednesday that our brother and his family members perished in an accident that occurred

within Otukpa in Benue State while fleeing the North on account of the violent attacks by Boko Haram," he told Vanguard on telephone yesterday.

He said that some of their relations were sent to Otukpa to bring back the six corpses for burial at their home in Awlum Wednesday but they were yet to meet police requirement by press time yesterday. "Our family has been thrown into deep mourning but we are particularly worried that their death was caused by Boko Haram insurgency. They were running away from the troubled area only to meet their untimely death close to their home state. This is very sad and we are calling on the government to do something about this because the journey that brought about this calamity was induced by the trouble in the North," Offia said

TAKE HEART
BY ELLA RANDLE

"Count your blessings. Once you realize how valuable you are and how much you have going for you, the smiles will return, the sun will break out, and you will finally be able to move forward in life with grace, strength, courage, and confidence" - Og Mandigo.

▲▲ EXCUSE ME", said an ocean fish. "You are older than I, so can you tell me where to find this thing called the ocean?" "The ocean," said the older fish, "is the thing you are in now." "But this is only water. What I'm seeking is the ocean," said the disappointed fish as he swam away to search elsewhere.

People sometimes act like the little fish, seeking and finding that which it has in abundance. Becoming more aware of the beauty and richness of life often requires from us an appreciation of the million small things that make all the difference in our everyday living. Cultivating awareness is about being fully present in the activities of your day. It is about learning to discern right from wrong within your own heart and being sensitive to conviction, instruction and wisdom in order to grow into the person that you have truly been created to be. Allow yourself the space and quiet time to ponder your day and interactions.

Appreciating your life calls for one to be humble, and calls for one to appreciate the journey to greatness that you are on.

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N150

Bayelsa: Dickson wins as INEC results show —P. 5
massive turnout

LUTH records another set of *P. 7* quadruplets



Boko Haram: *Persecution* Zakari Biu speaks

• *I didn't undermine Nigeria's interest, he says*
• *Abu Qaqa's revelations 'll sink Boko Haram* — Security agents

BY EMMA NNADOZIE, CRIME EDITOR & ROTIMI AJAYI

LAGOS — EMBATTLED Commissioner of Police, Zakari Biu, who is currently being investigated over the dramatic escape of Kabiru Abubakar Dikko, a.k.a. Kabiru Sokoto, the alleged mastermind of the Christmas day

Continues on Page 5

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National Perspectives

Inflation: The quiet plague *P. 48

OCHEREOME NNANNA
—P. 49

Whitney Houston update:
• *Died in bathtub with drugs by her side*
• *Pgs. 13 & 56*

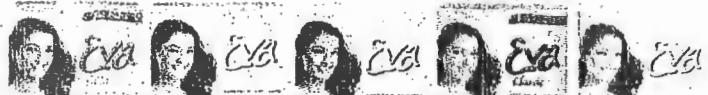


AWARD— From left: Mr. Richard Palmer, Adviser, Structured Finance, Mubadala Group; Reginald Ihejiaku, Managing Director, Fidelity Bank Plc; Mr. Abhulime Ehiagwina, Ag. Chief Financial Officer, Elisalal Nigeria; and Mr. Michael Ings, Partner, Norton Rose LLP London, at the presentation of Euromoney Project Finance awards in London at the weekend.



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NEWS

Boko Haram: Zakari Biu speaks

Continues from Page 1
 Bombing of St Theresa Catholic Church, Madalla, Niger State, in which over 40 lives were lost, yesterday opened up on his plight and trial.

The Commissioner of Police who was immediately detained after the escape of the suspect, and later whisked away by a combined team of military men and officers of the State Security Service, SSS, told Vanguard over the telephone that he did nothing to undermine the interest of the Nigeria Police Force and the nation at large, promising to tell his story when the time is ripe.

He told Vanguard on phone that his life has always been full of controversy.

His words: "My life has always been like that full of controversy. I am sure that there is nothing that I did to undermine the interest of the Nigeria Police Force, NPF, and the nation for the personal benefit of Zakari Biu. At this stage, I don't want to say anything yet. Government has set up a panel. I am sure they have submitted their report. I am due to appear at the Force Disciplinary Committee, FDC, tomorrow (today). At the appropriate time, you will be the first to hear my story."

Pressed to comment on

other related issues including the re-arrest of Kabiru Sokoto and how he was treated while in detention, he said, "I will not also comment on any issue and how I was treated after the incident for now. I assure you, I will talk later."

Qaqa's arrest "I'll sink Boko Haram — Security agents"

Meanwhile, Vanguard gathered, yesterday, that the arrest of the former spokesman of Boko Haram, Abu Qaqa will lead to the end of the terrorist activities of the group.

A reliable security source who has been part of the plans to contain the group disclosed to Vanguard in Abuja that already useful revelations had been made by the arrested Boko Haram Chief which would lead to major breakthrough in stopping the activities of the group.

According to the source, the Department of State Service would go to any length to ensure that all those connected with the Boko Haram group are brought to answer questions.

"Qaqa's arrest has been a major asset to us and since we picked him up and started interrogation, we are getting the lead to others who are connected with the group."

"We shall do our own job very well and then hand him over to other authorities. The fear of the system is that the people in judiciary should collaborate by ensuring that they put national interest first when these suspects are brought before them."

"Many of the judges are fond of releasing these suspects on bail in the name of ensuring their fundamental rights. This is the time

when the judges should cooperate in helping to arrest this terrorist group"

The source revealed that the arrest of Qaqa paved the way for the re-arrest of Kabiru Sokoto, who had escaped from Police Custody in January this year in a controversial manner.

Operatives of the Department of State Service had on February 2, 2012 arrested Abu Qaqa in Kaduna State.



Bayelsa: Dickson wins as INEC results show massive turnout

BY EMMANUEL AZIKEN, EMEKA MAMMAH, SAMUEL OYADONGHA, DANIEL IDONOR, HENRY UMORU & BEN AGANDE

LAGOS—MEMBER of the House of Representatives from Bayelsa State, Senkai Dickson was yesterday returned as the next Governor of the State on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP.

Dickson was adjudged the winner of the votes having polled a total of 417,500 votes out of the 467,004 votes cast, representing 89% of total votes cast in the Saturday election.

The turnout of voters in the state was put at 72% by the Returning Officer for the election and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port-Harcourt, Prof Joseph Ajenka.

The turnout as announced yesterday was against the trend of earlier reports at the end of the voting which characterized the election as being marred by voters' apathy.

Declaring the result of the election yesterday, Prof. Joseph Ajenka, Returning Officer for the election and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port-Harcourt, said that Dr. Imoru Kubor of the Change Advocacy Party, CAP came a distant second with 22,534 votes while Kemela Okara of the Action Congress of Nigeria, ACN, polled 9,627 votes. Famous Daunemigha of the Congress for Progressive Change, CPC trailed the pack with 3,548 votes.

"Senkai Dickson, having satisfied the requirement of the law by scoring the highest number of votes is hereby declared the winner of

the governorship election in Bayelsa State and returned elected," the returning officer declared yesterday.

Following the announcement, Dickson at a press conference in Yenogoa declared that he was humbled by the victory. He said it was not a personal victory but victory for all laws, giving a prominent mention to President Goodluck Jonathan who is from the state for his efforts.

"I wish to particularly thank my boss and elder brother, Mr. President, and the leader of our great party. His Excellency Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR, for his fatherly support and unflinching commitment to Bayelsa State," Dickson said in his acceptance speech yesterday.

He immediately declared his readiness to pursue peace with all his adversaries, saying that there is "no victor, no vanquished" from the election. He equally pledged that his campaign promises were not just meant for verbal expression but insisted that he would faithfully implement, to the letter, every promise made during the campaigns.

Against the trend of reports that the vote was characterized by voters' apathy the results declared yesterday showed huge voting in most of the local government areas of the state.

In President Jonathan's Ogbia local government where the President himself lamented on voting day about voters' apathy, the results declared showed a turnout of 75% with the PDP polling 94% of the votes.

In Sagbama, where 79% of the 69,098

registered voters turned out, the PDP scored 92.7% of the total votes cast.

The lowest turnout according to the INEC declaration was in Yenogoa where only 52.5% of the registered 133,122 voters turned out to vote, the PDP scored 88.5% of the total votes cast.

The proclamation of Dickson as Governor-Elect was immediately hailed by President Jonathan, Senate President David Mark and Speaker Aminu Tambuwal among others.

Welcoming the election of Dickson, President Jonathan urged him to dedicate himself to the improvement of the lot of the people saying that he was elated that the Bayelsa electorate sided him in returning the PDP candidate.

In the statement issued on his behalf by presidential spokesman, Dr. Rueben Abati, Jonathan was quoted as saying:

"As they prepare to assume office at the helm of governance in Bayelsa State, the President urges them to fully dedicate their tenure to giving effective, purposeful and result-oriented leadership to the people of the state who clearly reaffirmed their confidence in the PDP on Saturday."

"President Jonathan expects that Hon. Dickson and his incoming administration in Bayelsa State will work with total dedication and commitment to justify the peoples' confidence by rapidly delivering visible and significant improvements in the living conditions of residents of the state", the statement said.

Senate President David Mark on his part in a statement issued by his Chief Press Secretary,

Mr. Paul Mumeh, while congratulating the victorious PDP flag bearer implored him to rise up to the challenge of massive infrastructural development of the entire state which he claimed is in dire need of upliftment.

According to Mark: "You should rise up to the challenge of even development of the state. That is the sure way of building trust and confidence in your administration. You must bring honour and pride to the people of Bayelsa in particular and Nigerians at large."

"With this victory, you have a sacred mandate to lead the state to greater heights. As a father to all the citizens of the state, you should bring everybody on board and ensure that no part of the state feels a sense of marginalisation."

Speaker Aminu Tambuwal on his part in a statement issued on his behalf by his Special Adviser Media and Public Affairs, Imam Imam called on Dickson to unify the various tendencies in the state even as he called on all stakeholders in the state to rally round the incoming Governor.

"The people of Bayelsa have made the right choice. I, on behalf of the members of the House of Representatives, congratulate Hon. Dickson and wish him a fruitful tenure," the speaker said.

Meanwhile, the Nigerian Bar Association, NBA, yesterday applauded the conduct of the election by INEC.

The NBA in a statement said: "INEC colour coded the ballot papers and made them Local Government specific. This is a good innovation that should continue to be replicated in other states."

TAKE HEART
 BY ELLA RANDLE

"Often times we give others the opportunity to create our happiness, and many times they fail to create it the way we want it. Why? Because, only one person can be in charge of your joy, your bliss, and that's you...your joy lies within you." -Lisa Nichols-

EVERY act of thinking should be about the beauty and goodness of your heart, and when you share your dreams, goals and aspirations, be mindful who you share them with. Remember the saying: He climbs highest who helps another up. We are all from the same source, a cup of water taken from the ocean is of the same content as the mighty ocean deep waters.

We live in a constantly changing world, how we want that change is best determined by how we are willing to be flexible in life.

Arthur Ward, aptly expresses these intentions: Our words reveal our thoughts; manners mirror our self-esteem; our actions reflect our character and our habits predict the future". The first step towards attaining your goal is to plan effectively and embrace those individuals whose fields of dreams complement and support yours.

Vanguard

...towards a better life for the people

**

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2012

N150

**Lagos govt gives
tanker drivers 72 hrs
to relocate** 

**Cement firm's truck
crushes four,
injures three in Ogun**
—P. 9

Another arrest 'll sink Boko Haram — Security agent

- Fresh bomb blast in Suleja; many injured
- Bomb detectors deployed to Aso Rock, Azikiwe Airport

BY ROTIMI AJAYI,
KINGSLEY
OMONABI, OKEY
NDIRIBE, LUKA
BINNIYAT & PETER
DURU



VISIT—From left: Executive Director, South, Mr. Rasheed Olaoluwa; GMD/CEO UBA Plc, Mr. Phillips Oduzar; Executive Governor of Bayelsa State, Henry Seriake Dickson; Deputy Governor, Admiral John Jonah (Rtd.), during a courtesy visit by UBA management to the State Governor in Terengganu.

Financial Varied

**How govt
improverished
Nigerians;
poverty on
rampage**
—P. 17

LESLEBA Rational Perspectives

**Market Law for
Job Creation in
Nigeria** —P. 40

OCHEREOME NNANNA

—P. 41

ABUJA —
CONTRARY to
the image of invincibility
woven around the
Islamic terror group,
Boko Haram in the
media, the sect was not
thoroughly organised
and may be routed by
security agencies with
another major arrest, a
reliable top source within
the security apparatus in
Abuja, disclosed
yesterday.

According to the
source, Boko Haram was
no longer as powerful as
it used to be, before the
arrest of its spokesman,
Abu Qaqa and one of its

Continues on Page 3

**Bonga spill: Agbakoba
leads NIMASA's legal
team against Shell**
—P. 11

**PDP wins
Sokoto guber
as ANPP kicks**
—P. 6

Mr & Mrs

WHAT IF I SPENT
N150,000 ON MY CAR?
IT'S A BRAND NEW
BUT FOR GOD'S
SAKE! DON'T TELL ME
YOU'RE JEALOUS OF
A CAR!



SO, IT'S BECAUSE THE CAR
IS BRAND NEW, EH?
WHAT AM I, OLD CARROT?

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NEWS

Another arrest 'll sink Boko Haram

Continues from Page 1

foot soldiers, Kabiru Sokoto, whose arrest had led operatives of the Department of State Services (DSS) to the arrest of several other members of the group who were in their planning council.

Revealing that from the statements and intelligence gathered from the arrested members, the SSS was close to routing the group completely out of Nigeria, the source said: "We are on the winning side. We are very close to wiping them out completely as most of their top planners are already in our custody."

"It is however lamentable that much of the information being published on this group concerning their revelations were not correct. This group is not as organized as it is being portrayed in the press.

I must tell you that if it were a very organized group, someone like Kabiru, would not be in Nigeria after he had escaped from the Police the first time. These boys who are being used for the attacks were only errand boys who were getting only feeding money. Kabiru was selling recharge card and even when he was re-arrested, he had nothing significant. He was only bathed and

dressed up by the Service in order to present him to the Press. Certainly we are almost through with them. With just one more arrest, Boko Haram will cease to exist."

This disclosure came as fresh bomb blast rocked Suleja and the Police in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, beefed up security in the city with new motorized electronic detecting equipment deployed to places like Aso Rock Villa, Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport and the entry point between FCT and Niger State.

Meanwhile, Pastor Isua Kiforo, a director with Kaduna State Ministry of Information, who was shot several times on his legs and lower abdomen last Monday at Kaduna State Government House, died yesterday at the 44 Army Referral Hospital, Kaduna after battling for life for six days. His wife, Mrs. Charity Kiforo, confirmed his death to Vanguard on phone.

SULEJA: How scores escaped death in church

But for the alertness of security personnel attached to Christ Embassy Church located at 82 Morocco Road, Suleja, another massacre similar to that

which happened on December 25, 2011 at nearby Madalla, Niger State, would have occurred yesterday.

Matthew Musa, a worshipper, who was in the church when the bomb exploded at about 10 am said: "One of our members, who had parked his car outside the church premises had suddenly remembered something he forgot in the booth of his car. When the man went to pick what he forgot from the booth of his car, he noticed that a strange sack which looked like a Bagco super sack had been placed in front of his car. When he looked inside the bag, he noticed it contained a big tomato tin which had wires connected to it. He immediately alerted security men working in the church and the pastor."

Musa stated that it was this man who immediately raised the alarm about the presence of what was suspected to be a bomb near the church.

According to him, the Pastor immediately got in touch with the Police, Army and other security agencies and they were rushing towards the area when the blast occurred. Before the blast, security men attached to the church had swung into action by preventing members of the church and other passers-by from getting close to the spot where the suspicious object was placed.

He said the story would have been different if the bomb had exploded after the church service when worshippers would be trooping out.

Miss Kelechi John, a member of Triumphant Ministries, another church which also holds its service within the same building, narrated her own experience. "The Pastor had just announced that it was time to pray. He had just said in Jesus name and the congregation replied Amen and the next thing we heard was the sound of a very loud explosion. We all began to run for our dear lives. It was the Pastor who came out last."

It was learnt that although there were no casualties, several persons were wounded

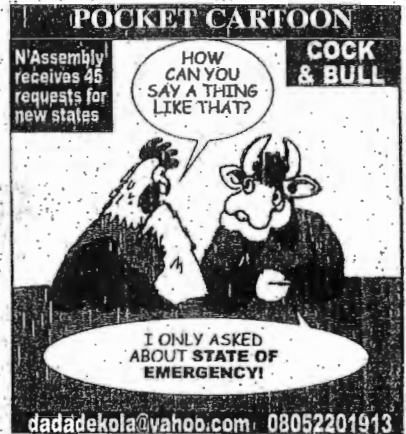
including a man whose abdomen was slashed open by the impact of the blast. The man was said to be a resident of another house located directly opposite the spot where the bomb exploded.

Another resident of the house said the injured man whose name was given as Chike was standing in front of the house when the explosion occurred. Another lady who also resides in the house said a lady was severely wounded on her neck.

The injured persons were said to have been rushed to Suleja General Hospital after which they were transferred to Gwagwalada General Hospital.

A resident of the building in which the two churches are located, who identified himself simply as Ekene said he saw the man who dropped the sack containing the explosives. "The man wore a white singlet and a knee-length jeans trouser," he said.

The impact of the explosion was so



powerful that it reduced two cars—between which the device was sandwiched—to heaps of scrap metal. Three other cars that were parked nearby had their windscreens shattered. The window panes and ceiling sheets of the affected buildings were all shattered.

Already a heavy security cordon has been thrown around the Suleja community with soldiers, policemen and operatives of the Nigerian Security with Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in-charge.

It would recalled that a suicide bomber attacked St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Madalla—a stone throw from Suleja—on Christmas day last year and killed over 43 persons.

Four suspected terrorists arrested in Makurdi

Four suspected members of Boko Haram sect were, yesterday, arrested at the St. Theresa Catholic Church, at the High

Continues on Page 5

Police beef-up security in Abuja

FOLLOWING the Suleja fresh bomb blast, the Police in the FCT, Abuja, have beefed up security in and around the Capital City with new motorized electronic detecting equipment deployed to such places as the Aso Rock Villa, the Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport and the entry point between FCT and Niger State.

More motorized electronic bomb detectors, which were recently procured from Europe by the Federal Government, according to Vanguard sources, are to be deployed to more entry and exit points of the FCT when they arrive the country because only a limited number including one deployed to the Keffi/Masaraba/Nyanya axis to checkmate those that may want to infiltrate the FCT from the Boko Haram hot spots.

"It would have to take some time to get others because these high caliber and modern bomb fighting and detecting equipment are only built to specifications and when

needed. There is the possibility also that when these equipment are procured in future, they would be deployed to states threatened by this terrorism menace" the source said.

Aside the Presidential Villa, the Defence and Services headquarters, Ministry of Defence, SSS headquarters, Police headquarters, NNPC headquarters and the Central Bank of Nigeria which had been cordoned off for some time by security agencies, have had their security re-enforced.

Vanguard gathered also that security has been beefed up for foreign embassies in the FCT while diplomats having business to transact around the country have been advised to secure security protection before embarking on their activities.

Meanwhile, the FCT Police Command disclosed yesterday that though it has beefed up security in Abuja before now, "It has fortified all entry and exit points to the capital while more

Police personnel have been deployed to patrol and protect lives and property on the highways, roads and major streets."

According to a statement signed by the Police Public Relations Officer, Superintendent of Police Jimoh Moshood, "Strategic locations including public and private concerns, throughout the FCT are being monitored and protected and the FCT Command will continue to work with other security and safety agencies within the capital and those of other states sharing borders with the territory to further strengthen and sustain the present level of security in the FCT".

The statement urged members of the public to go about their lawful activities, duties and engagements without fear or apprehension but report any suspicious incidents or happening to the nearest police Station or call the emergency lines—08032003913, 08061581938.

TAKE HEART

BY ELLA RANDEL

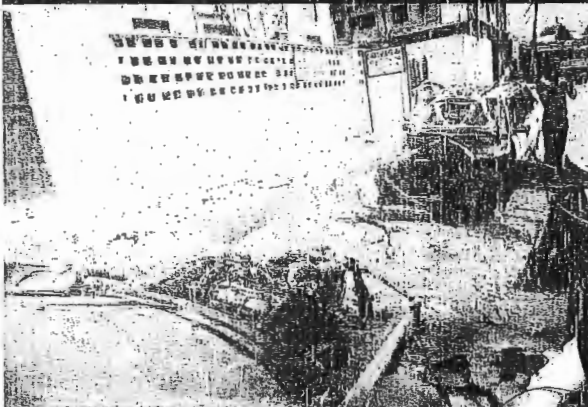
"A relationship is like a garden. If it is to thrive it must be watered regularly, special care must be given, taking into account the seasons as well as the unpredictable weather. New seeds must be sown and weeds must be pulled. Similarly, to keep the magic of love alive, we must understand its seasons and nurture love special needs." John Gray.

GRAY'S insight on this subject attest truly that all of life is about maintaining positive and uplifting relationships with ourselves and others as well. To succeed in this endeavor one must try to understand and learn to express unwholesome feelings in a way that allows for healing in our interactions and dealings with others. The more we are able to heal our unresolved feelings from childhood, the easier it is to share our feelings and listen to our partner's feelings without being hurt, impatient, frustrated, or offended.

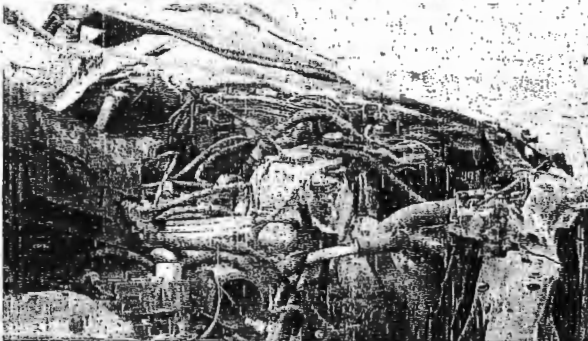
Whenever you feel impatience and intolerant when others express their heartfelt feelings, this maybe an indication of how you treat yourself. To restrain ourselves we must reinvent ourselves. We must acknowledge there is an emotional person inside us who gets upset even when our rational adult mind says there is no reason to be upset. We can isolate that emotional part when we listen to our feeling with compassion and acceptance, our negative feelings quite miraculously are healed; and we are able to respond to situations in a much more loving and respectful way. When you are more conscious of your divinity and honour that in another. You become the beautiful heart, a loving person deserving of a beautiful life.

NEWS

BOMB BLAST IN SULEJA



Scene of the bomb blast at Christ Embassy Church, Morocco Road, Suleja, Niger State, where four people sustained injuries, yesterday. BELOW: Mangled remains of an affected car. PHOTOS: Gbemiga Olamikan.

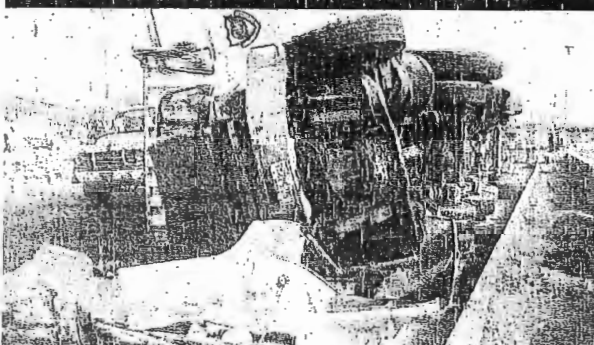


FLOOD IN LAGOS



Flood at Agege Motor Road, Ladipo Bus Stop, Oshodi, Lagos State. PHOTO: Diran Oshie.

CRASH ON APAPA EXPRESSWAY



A trailer with number plate LSD 542 XA lost control and fell at Berger Yard Bus Stop, along Apapa expressway, yesterday. PHOTO: Joe Akintola, Photo Editor.

Another arrest 'll sink Boko Haram

Continues from Page 3

level area of Makurdi, the Benue State capital. Vanguard gathered from eyewitness that the four suspects had attempted to gain entry into the church while the second Mass was ongoing at 10.am when they were stopped by private security men on guard at the church.

The four men who were dressed in long ropes aroused suspicion when they could not respond appropriately to questions put to them by police men attached to the church.

Vanguard gathered from some members of the church and security man at the gate that the suspects claimed they came in from Kaduna State on a visit to a yet to be identified person in Makurdi.

Confirming the arrest, the state Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Assistant Superintendent of Police Alaribe Ejike, said that the people were not members of Boko Haram.

Following claims that Benue state was on the invading list of the dreaded sect, the state government and religious leaders in the state have taken measures to beef up security in places of worship and some churches now have heavy presence of

security agents manning their gates every Sunday.

How Pastor Kiforo died - Wife

Confirming Kiforo's death, his wife Mrs Charity Kiforo, who declined extensive comments, mournfully said, "my husband died this morning after six days in the hospital."

The Kaduna State Commissioner for Information, Alh Saidu Adamu paid tribute to the man, saying, "I was informed about his death this afternoon. He was a nice, gentle and good person to work with. For the years we have worked together, I have found him a great staff to work with. I don't understand what he did that led to his being shot. That would be left to the Police to explain", he said.

Kaduna State Police Commissioner, Mallam Mohammed Bala Nasarawa, had six hours after the shooting of Kiforo, issued a statement saying the man had breached security at Kaduna Government House. He, however, said that no weapon or explosives were found on him or in the car he was driving.

Said Nasarawa: "At about 1328 hrs, a combined team of security personnel

attached to Government House main gate, Kaduna intercepted a Toyota Corolla Saloon car, maroon in colour with Kaduna state Government official Reg.No.Kaduna, KD-06-A04.

"The driver drove dangerously in a suspicious manner towards the Government House gate. The security personnel stopped the lone occupant, but instead of stopping, he forced himself through the exit gate and found his way into the Government House.

"The security agencies thereafter, opened fire and shot the suspect on the leg and lower abdominal part of his body. The suspect was later identified as Pastor Isuwa Kiforo 'M' of No.7 Abba Rimi, Narayi Kaduna, who is the Director Finance and Administration, Ministry of Information, Kaduna State. He was rushed to 44 Army Reference Hospital Kaduna for treatment, after he was given first aid by a team of medical personnel attached to the government House. The vehicle was thoroughly searched in my presence by our Anti-Bomb disposal experts and nothing incriminating was recovered. In essence neither weapon nor explosives were found in it."

Man dies in fight with wife over baby food, pampers

BY IFEAYI OKOLIE

LAGOS—TRAGEDY struck Saturday, at Ago-Okota area of Lagos State, when a middle-aged man, identified as Ifeanyi Anaekwe, slumped and died during a scuffle with his wife in their apartment.

Vanguard gathered that the deceased and his wife had an argument over money to buy pampers and baby food for their child which degenerated into a fight.

It was gathered that during the fight, the widow, Chikodiji

Anaekwe, allegedly hit her husband on the head which made him to slump. When he slumped, she allegedly stabbed him several times.

Mr. Anaekwe was said to have died before help came.

A police source who did not want to be identified, told Vanguard that "neighbours reported that the victim was first clubbed from behind early with a pestle and he slumped. She reportedly stabbed him several times.

"They claimed an argument ensued between the man and his

wife when the wife requested for money to buy pampers and baby food for their newly baby.

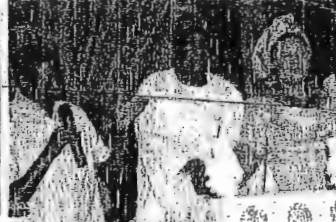
"The husband, who was said to be preparing for work at the time, was said to have explained to the wife that he did not have enough money. This they claimed infuriated the wife and a fight ensued."

Lagos Police Command Spokesman, Joseph Jayeoba, while confirming the incident, said the Command was currently investigating the circumstances surrounding the death and would make its findings public.

Vanguard

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 VOL. 25: NO. 61712 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2012 N150

Why Bakassi belongs to Nigeria P.46



OGBEMUDIA @ 80
 From left: Gov. Adams Oshiomhole of Edo State; Dr. Samuel Ogbemudia, 80; and Yehuda, cutting the cake to celebrate the 80th birthday of Dr. Ogbemudia in Beniu City, yesterday.

Boko Haram top shot killed — JTF

- 15 others killed in Bauchi, Maiduguri
- Yuguda condemns killings in Bauchi

BY ABDULSALAM MUHAMMAD, NDAHI MARAMA & SUZAN EDEH

KANO—IN what appeared to be a major victory against the Boko Haram sect, the Joint Military Task Force confirmed, yesterday, that the sect's spokesman, Abu Qaqa, has been killed, while two other members were arrested after a shootout between the sect and

Continues on page 6



NATIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS: From left: Chairman Heirs Holdings, Mr. Tony Elumelu, CON; Delta State Governor, Dr. Emmanuel Uduyghasi, CON and Chairman of Globacom, Dr. Mike Adenuga, GCON, during the national awards investiture ceremony in Abuja, yesterday.

National Honours:
 Jonathan defends choice of awardees P.6

National Assembly resumes
 ...To confront executive on N5,000 note, budget, PIB, others P.6

Pini Jason

National Honours list and critics
P.17

John Amode

Method for choosing option in US Army stability operations (2)
P.19

Mr & Mrs

I CAN'T POUND YAM. I'M SORRY YOU'D HAVE TO BUY A 'YAM POUNDING MACHINE. OR DO YOU HAVE A BETTER IDEA?

I THINK A BEAUTIFUL 'YAM POUNDING' WOMAN WOULD BE OKAY.

dadhidekola@yahoo.com
 08090742556

NEWS

Boko Haram top shot killed — JTF

Continues from Page 1
security operatives. There were, however, different accounts on how the encounter took place.

According to one account, quoting an official of the task force, the shooting occurred yesterday morning in Marin, a town southeast of Kano, where soldiers stopped a vehicle with the sect spokesman, the commander, the spokesman's wife and their children, the official said. It was not clear what happened next, though the official said soldiers shot dead both the commander and the spokesman. The wife and children remain in military custody. The wife told soldiers the men had accompanied her to Kano as she sought medical help. The military official was said to have spoken on condition of anonymity as the information was not to be made public yesterday. Lt. Iweha Ikedichi, a military spokesman in the region, later told journalists that soldiers had

only killed one man, the Boko Haram spokesman. However, the official who spoke to The Associated Press had been at the scene of the attack and offered further details about the scene.

A different account said a team of the Joint Military Task Force stormed the hideout of the sect in Hotoro area of Kano municipal where one of the commanders of the sect was killed, while two other members were arrested during the combat operation.

Vanguard was told that the military action followed intelligence report indicating the presence of high profile sect members, who had been on the wanted list of security agents in the area.

The source further revealed that the daylight operation involving several infantry and counter terrorism officers was swift and ended within half an hour.

The sources, however, refused to divulge the identity of the "top com-

mander" killed during the operation and those taken into custody, pointing out that "what mattered at the moment is the success recorded during the military action".

Residents were apprehensive when a military helicopter was seen hovering the skyline of the city indicating a major military operation.

JTF confirms operation

Confirming the arrest, JTF spokesman in the city, Lt. Ikediche Iweha told Vanguard on phone that "we carried out a raid this morning around Hotoro general area where we killed a member of a terrorist group and arrested two during the operation".

Lt Iweha, however failed to clarify the identity of the top commander killed and those arrested. He only said that "we don't have their nominal roll and can not say who was killed and arrested but investigation would certainly reveal their identity".

Meanwhile, Kano city and environs were generally calm after the operation as business activities resumed while there were increased activities in all the military check points in the city.

Yesterday's combat operation came on the heels of a devastating attack by yet to be identified gunmen at Hotoro area where a member of National Security and Civil Defense Corp (NSCDC) was killed with his entire family.

In a related development, bloody confrontation between the JTF and some suspected terrorists in Maiduguri left 10 persons dead, while gunmen killed five persons in Zango area of Bauchi Metropolis.

An eye witness of the Maiduguri incident, Mallam Usman Abdullahi, who resides in the troubled Gwange ward, which is one of the black spots identified by the JTF, told Vanguard that "an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) suspected to have been planted on Sunday by some terrorists targeting a security patrol vehicle in Gwange Ward of

Maiduguri, the Borno State capital exploded, leaving two men of the JTF seriously injured.

Abdullahi said: "Soon after the explosion, gunshots ensued, but the JTF after repelling the attack quickly cordoned off the area, while the exchange of gun duel between the JTF and the attackers led to the killing of some people and burning of several houses.

"I cannot tell whether those killed were innocent people or the houses which were set ablaze belong to the suspected terrorists, but all I saw with my eyes was that some corpses littered the streets on Monday (yesterday) morning, even as some houses were still burning as I am talking to you now", Abdullahi stated.

A hospital attendant at the State Specialist Hospital who did not want his name mentioned, told Vanguard that he saw two patrol vehicles of the JTF with some corpses around the gate of the hospital. He added that each of the vehicles carried five dead bodies.

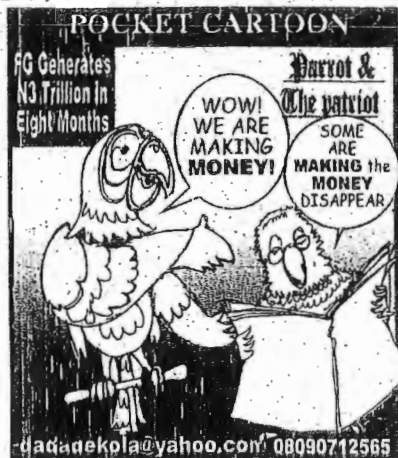
Bizman shot in Yobe

Also on Sunday evening, at about 8:45pm, some gunmen shot and injured a Business man and a top ANPP stakeholder in Yobe State, Alhaji Mustapha Sheriff Mashidimami.

It was gathered that the gunmen who invaded the family house of the politician on Dambaa Road, Maiduguri Metropolis demanded unspecified amount of money, but when they were not able to get the money from the business man, they shot and injured him before they fled.

Already, Alhaji Mashidimami has been rushed to an undisclosed hospital where he was said to be responding to treatment.

Unknown gunmen kill five, injure seven in Bauchi



In Bauchi, five people were confirmed killed while seven others sustained injuries when unknown gunmen yesterday attacked Zango area, near federal low cost housing estate, a suburb of Bauchi metropolis.

The area, it was gathered, was one of the flash points in the town that witnessed several ethno-religious and communal clashes.

A community leader in the area told Vanguard that "the gunmen targeted an area where people used to assemble in the evening to play cards and gamble. They came inside a tricycle and started shooting sporadically, killing five people on the spot and injuring several others who were later taken to the hospital.

Some residents said they were scared when they heard several gunshots near their houses which caused fear, confusion and pandemonium as they scamped for safety. Immediately after the incident, security men cordoned the area.

Efforts to get the state commissioner of Police Mohammed Ladan failed as he did not pick his calls while the Police Public Relations Officer ASP Hassan Mohammed Auyo said he was on casual leave and had travelled out of the state.

A reliable security source confirmed that five people were killed on the spot and seven were injured but that no arrest was made and security men have commenced investigation into the matter.

In his reaction, Governor Isa Yuguda condemned the attack on innocent people at the Zango area of Bauchi metropolis describing it as an act of terrorism which his administration

and other governments in the country are fighting hard to eradicate.

Yuguda condemns killings

The Governor according to a statement from the Office of the Chief Press Secretary, Ishola Michael Adeyemi, condoled with families of all those who lost their loved ones in the barbaric act.

Yuguda who described the assailants as terrorists assured that government would do everything humanly possible to track them down and bring them to book because, according to him, "there is no way we will allow criminals and terrorists to continue to live among us terrorizing innocent people; we must join hands to stop these heinous acts."

He added that terrorist acts are not directed at one direction, either because of religion, tribe or political affiliation, but a general target at every citizen of the country, saying that, "we must all come together to fight these evil men, they live among us and we must expose them at all cost. These wanton killing must stop now."

He, therefore, appealed to all those affected not to do anything that would aggravate the already tensed situation which may lead to breakdown of law and order. Let us allow the security operatives to do their work and eventually track down the criminals. We should please avoid anything that will lead to the loss of more lives and disrupt the peace that we are enjoying in the state, he appealed.

LIFEWORDS

BY PASTOR ITUWA

NOT he who has much is rich, but he who gives much — Erich Fromm.

Don't waste another day upset, disappointed, or controlled by problems. Discover how to make each day a great day! — Joyce Meyers.

TAKE HEART

BY RILLA RANDEE

That man do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons that history has to teach — Aldous Huxley

NEVER assume you know it all or confuse material possessions or geographical advantage as tool of superiority, the truth is, a higher consciousness is earned constantly with a great of how wisdom is applied in your dealing with others. There is a great divide between the ego and the personality.

A great personality will shine like a beacon of light to others. It is just what it is, a shining light. So never get too smug to think you're smarter than others, this may just be the Achilles heels to bring down the torch.

Be open to new ways of doing things, new ideas to accomplish goals and dreams. Learn from others and listen to the voice of truth even from unexpected quarters. A wise sage sums aptly: "No matter what you have, do not like it too much." But this much I have come to know too, everything in life is fungible... everyone and everything is fungible.

Paying close attention to details draws me to virtues like humility, compassion, love, and tolerance. I may falter at this, but whenever I get it right, it draws me faster into a path of balance like a last gale on a smooth sailing wind into the heart of divine love.

LEADERSHIP

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Senate To EFCC: Go After Oil Cabal Now

By Uchenna Awom, Chibuzo Ukaibe, Adesuwa Tsan and Fred Iloa, Abuja

The Senate yesterday urged the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) not to spare any beneficiary of the oil subsidy scam, just as it tasked the anti-

graft agency to intensify the search for the cabal.

The Senate, nonetheless, reassured Nigerians that the ongoing investigation by its joint committee into the N1.3trn fuel subsidy will be in the interest of Nigerians, adding that it would be made available to the EFCC and

others to effect immediate prosecution of those found culpable.

Speaking with journalists after plenary, Senate's spokesman and its chairman on information, media and public affairs, Enyinnaya Abaribe, stated that the crisis facing the nation today was caused by the activities of saboteurs in the oil sector.

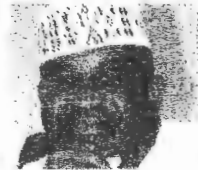
others to effect immediate prosecution of those found culpable.

Commending President Goodluck Jonathan, the leadership of the Senate and organised labour for their efforts in calling off the strike, Abaribe also assured that recommendations made by the Belgore committee and the organised labour would be faithfully implemented.

fully implemented.

"It is necessary to mention here that the Senate as an institution of government has commenced an investigation into the management of fuel subsidy and so many things were revealed in the investigation.

Continued on Page 5



Mark

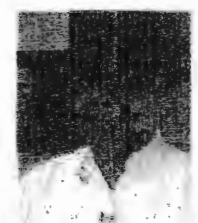
Police Boss In Soup Over Boko Haram Suspect's Escape

- 2 soldiers killed, 5 wounded in Maiduguri ● JTF apprehends 6 top sect members
- Sect, threat to international peace — UN
- Borno elders call for more security for Gov Shettima ▶ 5



A mobile police officer on top of an armoured vehicle during a protest in Kano, on Monday.

PHOTO BY SALISU IBRAHIM



“Nigerians, please listen; do you really think that President Goodluck Jonathan does not know how to leave petrol price at N65 per litre?”

Read text of ATEDO PETERSIDE'S advertorial interview on deregulation on pages 25, 26, 31 and 32

Subsidy: Jonathan Apologises To Int'l Community

Page 5

Soldiers'll Remain In Lagos — Defence Minister

Page 6

Police Boss In Soup Over Boko Haram Suspect's Escape

By Chizoba Ogbeche, Grace Azubike, Abuja; Abiodun Oluwarotimi, with agency reports; and Sunny Nwankwo, Maiduguri

The inspector general of police (IG), Mr. Hafiz Ringim, has ordered the suspension of a commissioner of police attached to the Zone 7 headquarters in Abuja, Mr. Zakari Bui, following the escape of a suspected Boko Haram leader, Kabiru Sokoto, in his custody.

The IG stated this in a statement signed by the force public relations officer (FPRO), Mr. Ohusola Amore, a deputy commissioner of police (DCP). The statement added that the CP was queried before he was suspended over the matter.

Amore also quoted the IG as saying that: "The Nigeria Police Force wishes to confirm that a suspect was arrested in a successful police operation and was rescued from a team of policemen detailed to carry out further investigation in the matter."

But the police had denied the arrest of the suspect, who was reportedly arrested alongside a military man suspected to be a member of the sect on Saturday at the Borno State Governor's Lodge in Asokoro, Abuja, just as the state government has denied any linkage to the suspect.

LEADERSHIP checks revealed that about 10 junior officers working under the CP had been remanded in custody pending the conclusion of investigation.

According to the police spokesperson, "The suspect was handed over to the commissioner of police (Bui) for further investigation and he consequently detailed his men to take the suspect to Abaji in furtherance of investigation."

"In the course of undertaking this important procedure, the policemen on escort with the suspect were attacked by the suspected sect's gang members and in the process, the suspect was freed."

"The police view this development as a serious negligence on the part of the commissioner of police who has since been queried and suspended from duty. If a criminal case is established against him and his team, they will be prosecuted."

The media had reported the escape of the suspected Boko Haram sponsor under questionable circumstance as he was said to have been taken back to Abaji, where a LEADERSHIP source claimed he was originally arrested as part of the investigation.

The suspect was rescued by some militant youths who laid siege on the palace of a prominent traditional ruler whose sons were said to have been implicated in the activities of the sect especially the Christmas Day bombing of St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Madalla in Niger State. The police had reportedly been under pressure to release the suspect, leading to the secrecy surrounding his arrest and reluctance of the police to acknowledge his arrest.

The suspect, who is also known to be an arms dealer and resident in Maiduguri, Borno State, was reportedly tracked down by the security force in Abuja while he was on his way to London.

Boko Haram kills 2 soldiers, wounds 5 soldiers in Maiduguri

Meanwhile, in Maiduguri, Borno State capital, suspected members of the Boko Haram sect yesterday afternoon attacked a patrol vehicle belonging to the Joint Military Task Force (JTF), killing two soldiers and wounding five others.

The attack came barely eight hours after the JTF apprehended six high-profile members of the sect while five improvised explosive devices, (IEDs) were recovered in London Ciki ward.

Although details of the incident were sketchy as at press time, it was gathered that the attack occurred at about 2.30pm when 10 gunmen were said to have waylaid the soldiers on a routine patrol at the Ngomari Airport Road, firing assault rifles on their vehicles, killing two officers on the spot.

A source at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH), who spoke in confidence, confirmed that the remains of two military men with many gunshot injuries were taken to the hospital's morgue.

The source also explained that five other JTF members, who were wounded as a result of the attack, were being treated.

According to witnesses, "The gunmen drove in the area in two Volkswagen cars, parked beside the road and hid in a corner, before opening fire on the military patrol vehicle, which was about passing the spot."

A resident of the area, Musa Baba, said shortly after the attack members of the JTF cordoned off some roads and restricted movements, while others embarked on house-to-house search.

The field operations commander of JTF, Col. Victor Ebhaleme, could not be reached for

comment. But the commissioner of police, Borno State Command, Mr. Simeon Midenda, confirmed that two soldiers were shot in the incident.

JTF arrests 6 sect members

The JTF on Operation Restore Order (ORO) has also said in Maiduguri that it has arrested six prominent individuals suspected to be members of the Boko Haram sect.

The JTF field commander, Col. Victor Ebhaleme, told journalists yesterday that the arrest was part of the team's renewed efforts toward cracking down on members of the sect.

He said: "We have continued to record breakthroughs in our effort to ensure the return of peace in Maiduguri. Consequently, we have arrested six high-profile suspected members of the Boko Haram sect."

The JTF boss also said that the team yesterday detonated a number of unexploded improvised explosive devices (IEDs) planted at Kailari, near the London-ciki area in Maiduguri.

Boko Haram, threat to international peace — UN

The United Nations has Boko Haram as a threat to international peace and security.

The United Nations envoy in West Africa, Ambassador Said Djinnit, told the Security Council, that worrisome developments could come to the forefront such as it was being seen in the activities of the Boko Haram group in Nigeria which weighs heavily on peace and security.

Hoping that Nigeria shall independently find the necessary resources to tackle the challenges on the security and political fronts, Djinnit said it was also important for the international community to make real its support and solidarity in respect to this country that has contributed so much to regional and international peace and security.

He said: "The Boko Haram extremist group has reportedly claimed responsibility for a series of bloody terrorist attacks in Nigeria in recent months. It also claimed responsibility for the attack on the UN building in Abuja in late August that resulted in the deaths of 24 people, including 12 of the world body's staff."

Borno elders seek security for Governor Shettima

Meanwhile, some elders in Borno State have called on the Nigeria Police Force and the Nigerian Army to beef up and enhance security around Governor Kashim Shettima follow-

ing suspected attempts to blow off the Governor's lodge in Asokoro, Abuja, at the weekend by a suspected bomber of a church on Christmas Day in Madalla.

Alhaji Abubakar Kime, who issued a statement on behalf of the Assembly of Yerwa Elders, said they were very worried that a suspect had his way into the governor's lodge just when the governor was expected to arrive and pass the night in the same lodge.

The elders said they were aware that the very day Shettima became governorship candidate prior to the 2011 elections, two attempts were made to eliminate him, and they believe those trailing him have intensified their search.

The elders commended the police for helping the situation which, they believe, was Allah's hand work owing to prayers of feared by many citizens of Borno state for the safety of their governor.

Said the elders in the statement: "Shettima is a very liberal minded, kind-hearted and open-minded person who trusts so many because his heart is clean. Yes, we all know he is a good man and liberal but he no longer has the liberty to determine how he conducts himself. We, the people of Borno will decide how he operates and, because we have seen how he is determined to return Borno to its glorious days we want him safe and we say he should not be too liberal as he wants."

"There must be more intense security around him because we are worried that some body went as far as trailing him to Abuja to bomb the lodge when he was being expected in some hours. Some people don't like him for taking firm security measures. Some of his opponents are desperate to even have him out of power, some people are not happy that he is on the way to solving the Boko Haram crisis by recently accepting and paying N100 million to the family of the late Boko Haram leader in law as per a high court ruling which was granted before he became governor. And, to all people of Borno, what he did is a big move in addressing the Boko Haram crisis."

"It is like some people want Boko Haram crisis to remain so that they continue to make money from it; so, for that they want Shettima eliminated but, Insha Allah, this will not happen. We are praying fervently for our visionary governor and Allah will protect him and peace will be achieved."

"The elders said they had

Senate To EFCC: Go After Oil Cabal Now

Continued from Front Page

Deduction from source legal — Alison-Madueke

The minister of petroleum resources, Diezani Alison-Madueke, yesterday defended the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), for directly deducting subsidies from proceeds of sale of petroleum products, saying it is legal and approved by the constitution.

Speaking at the second day of the ongoing House of Representatives ad-hoc committee probing the actual subsidy on petroleum, the minister also said that the Ministry of Finance should be in the best position to know who authorised the payment since it falls under its purview.

In her submission, Alison-Madueke, while not pointedly stating that there is a cabal, declared that there were sharp practices and manipulations in the importation of fuel into the country by some operators to their benefit.

She also informed the committee that NNPC does not import crude into the country, a stand that was debunked by the Nigeria Customs Service.

According to the NCS representative, deputy comptroller-general, tariff and training, Julius Ndubisui, the NNPC has been handling the nation's oil resources without due process and transparency.

Stating emphatically that NNPC is still involved in importing crude as one of the marketers, he added that the corporation does not follow due process in importing products into the country as it does so without valid documents as required by the law of the land.

Ndubisui also pointed out that there was no way to verify the claims of the NNPC on how much crude was imported and how much subsidy was paid because the ship conveying the product berth offshore, from where smaller vessels convey the product onshore, at which point the NCS inspects and verifies the content.

To prove his point, he said that their manifest bears offshore Cotonou or offshore Lome, thus making it impossible for the NCS to know the contents of the products and their countries of origin.

Adding that the NNPC owes the federal government N46bn, he said the money accrued from non-payment of the initial N3 import duties on imported petroleum products which was later reduced to 1.50k before being erased totally by the presidency (Ministry of Finance) in 2002.

He lamented that the NNPC had been importing crude oil into the country to service the Kaduna refinery and had not been paying the required duties to the service. He presented documents of ev-

idence to the committee, including a file containing recent details of NNPC's import of crude oil and promised to add other relevant documents to back up their claims against NNPC. He concluded by advising the lawmakers to invite the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, NETTI, to carry out forensic audit of all vessels bringing fuel into the country so as to know the exact quantities that were imported.

Speaking in the same vein, the chairman of NETTI, Prof. Asisi Asobie, also indicted the NNPC for lack of transparency and accountability as the audit report carried out by the agency on NNPC showed that the operations of the corporation lacked transparency and due process.

He said payments for fuel subsidy ought to be made only on the approval of the accountant-general of the federal, based on the approval by the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA), as against the current practice where NNPC deducts directly from the domestic crude oil proceeds before remitting the rest to the Federation Account.

The Nigeria Labour Congress and Trade Union Congress asked for another time to appear as they were not prepared with the relevant documents as at the time they were coming to the public hearing.

In his remarks, the chairman of the ad-hoc committee, Hon. Farouk Lawan, expressed shock and dismay at the revelations emanating from the public hearing which he described as damning and disturbing. He said it shows clearly that the country was being short-changed due to manipulations and disregard to the law of the land.

Consequently, he summoned both the minister of finance, Mrs. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, and the petroleum resources minister to appear together tomorrow so that it will be clearly established who authorised the payment of over N1.3trn as against the N255bn budgeted for subsidy in 2011.

We're committed to quick passage of PIB — Reys

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives has denied speculation that it turned down the passage of the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB), while assuring Nigerians that it is committed to the hasty passage of the bill so that all Nigerians can benefit from the sector.

Spokesman of the House, Hon. Zakari Mohammed, said this while briefing journalists at the National Assembly yesterday against the backdrop of the constitution of a committee for the passage of the bill by President Goodluck Jonathan.

LEADERSHIP

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January 19, 2012

No. 1,628
N150

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Law To Regulate Rent In Abuja Under Way



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Senate Okays 70 Years Retirement Age For Lecturers



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Supreme Court Decides On Wamakko, Others Jan 27

BOKO HARAM ESCAPEE

IG Gets 24 Hours To Produce Suspect ▶ 5

ADVERTISEMENT

FELLOW DRIVERS LET'S LET THE FARE BE FAIR

Fellow Nigerians, let us consider the case of Mr. Kingsley – a Lagos based Commercial Bus Operator plying the Obalende – Ajah route. He owns an 18-seater bus.

BEFORE SUBSIDY REMOVAL

Mr. Kingsley charged one hundred and fifty naira (N150) per passenger per trip leg (either from Obalende to Ajah or Ajah to Obalende). He bought fuel at N65 per litre and used up 15 litres of fuel (N975.00) to complete a trip cycle, i.e., from Obalende to Ajah and back to Obalende. His average sales revenue before the subsidy removal was N5,400.00 and his balance after removing the cost of petrol equaled N4,425.00.

AFTER-SUBSIDY REMOVAL

Mr Kingsley now buys the 15 litres of fuel at N140 per litre for N2100 per trip cycle. So the extra money he spends on fuel because of the removed subsidy is N1,125.00.

Oga Kingsley is bitter with the Government for increasing petrol to N140. He says he is now forced to charge N250 instead of N150 per passenger going to or coming from Ajah to Obalende.

HOW MUCH SHOULD MR. KINGSLEY BE CHARGING?

Despite Mr. Kingsley's anger at the new price of petrol, the subsidy removal has actually led to an increase in his balance after removing the cost of fuel. The balance has increased from N4,425 before subsidy removal to N6,900 after subsidy removal.

But the truth is if one divides the extra money Mr. Kingsley spends on fuel after the subsidy removal by the total number of passengers he carries going from Obalende to Ajah and back to Obalende (36 passengers total, i.e. 18 persons per trip), he should only increase the bus fare by that amount: N1,125 divided by 36 which equals N31 per passenger. So he should not add more than N35 to the old price to get the new price for bus fare: N31 plus N150 equals N181.

WHAT IS THE CONCLUSION?

Mr. Kingsley and other patriotic Nigerians have a duty to us to ensure that the subsidy removal is not exploited for personal gain. If we have to judge government at the least, let us first put our house in order!

Category	Before Subsidy Removal	After Subsidy Removal
Fuel Cost	N975.00	N2100.00
Revenue	N5400.00	N5400.00
Balance	N4425.00	N6900.00

CONTEST Mass Interest Project (MIP)

Boko Haram Escapee: IG Gets 24 Hours To Produce Suspect

By George Agba, Chizoba Ogbече and Ahuraka Isah, Abuja

Indications emerged yesterday that the minister of police affairs, Navy Captain Caleb Oluobolade and the inspector general of police (IGP), Hafiz Ringim, may be sacked over the escape from police custody of strongman of the militant Boko Haram who also is the suspected mastermind of the Christmas Day bombing at St Theresa's Catholic Church, Madalla, Niger State, Kabir Sokoto.

President Goodluck Jonathan has given the IGP 24 hours to produce the fleeing suspect or face severe sanction for negligence to duty.

The duo had been summoned to the presidential villa and queried yesterday following public outcry over the suspect's escape under questionable circumstances. They were mandated to ensure that Sokoto was re-arrested.

Fielding questions from journalists at the presidential villa, Oluobolade disclosed that he had already ordered the arrest of the suspected police commissioner, Zakari Biu, and the officers who followed the suspect for the purported investigation mission to Abaji.

Asked whether the IG has been queried and given 24 hours to produce the suspect, the police minister said, "That is true because he is the field officer, he has the responsibility to ensure that all operations regarding arrest and all that are conducted in the usual manner. If he is found guilty of complicity, he himself will have to account for his mistakes."

Oluobolade who described the escape of the suspected Boko Haram member from the hands of about 14 police officers as an unfortunate incident said, "Anybody could be sacked including myself."

"From the ministry, I have directed the IG to carry out full investigation and even at a higher level above that one, there will be another investigation to ascertain what led to the suspect's escape."

I have also directed that the officers involved and the personnel involved should be detained immediately. You would have seen in the papers that the commissioner of police has been suspended. In fact, beyond that I have ordered that he be placed under closed ar-



Ringim

rest."

He explained: "The IGP is the field officer. He has the responsibility to ensure all operations regarding arrest and all that are conducted in the usual manner. If he is found guilty of complicity, he himself will have to account for his mistakes."

Asked whether the incident was an indication that there had not been good working relationship between the police and the ministry, the minister said, "It is not. If somebody has erred in his responsibility, the outcome of the investigation will prove that. What is important is that whatever steps we are going to take as a result of this neglect, we have to take it immediately."

He however denied that the incident confirmed President Goodluck Jonathan's statement that Boko Haram has infiltrated his government, "I cannot confirm that statement. What is important is that the suspect is missing and all steps must be taken to re-arrest the suspect."

"While that is pending, the officers involved who conducted the search must be detained so that the outcome of the investigation will lead to whatever punishment will be given."

The police commissioner in charge of investigations at Zone 7 Police Headquarters in Abuja had reportedly led a team of 10 policemen to Abaji, an area council of the FCT, to search the residence of Sokoto which is believed to be the operational hideout of the sect.

But, in a dramatic twist, a gang of youths was said to have confronted the police team, facilitating his escape in the confusion that ensued.

LEADERSHIP reliably gathered that the embattled IG has instituted a nationwide manhunt for the escaped suspect who is said to be the second in command to the leader of the sect and has been on the police's wanted list for some time now.

A senior police officer who confirmed the manhunt said the police hierarchy has been under pressure following Sokoto's escape, adding that the incident had sent a wrong signal to members of the sect and other criminal groups, hence the entire police force has been mandated to ensure that the suspect was re-arrested.

He expressed optimism that the suspect would be re-arrested as all police formations in the country have been placed on red alert regarding the re-arrest of the Boko Haram henchman just as his photographs have been sent to the borders to ensure he does not leave the country.

However, speculations are rife that Sokoto, who is resident in Maduguri and was in Abuja on his way to London on a yet to be ascertained mission before his arrest, may have left the country.

His escape is largely believed to have been facilitated on the orders of senior police officers sympathetic to the cause of the sect. However, the newly promoted commissioner, Bui, who hails from Borno State, which is the hub of Boko Haram activities may take the blame for the security breach.

Meanwhile, a chieftain of the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN), Chief Audu Ogbеh, has called for the resignation of the IG for negligence and a judicial probe to unmask those responsible for the escape of the suspect.

Speaking to journalists at the party's national secretariat in Abuja, yesterday, Ogbеh alleged that, "The so called escape was packaged at the highest level by an individual who hates this country, who wears uniform of security agency."

"How does anybody convince us that Kabiru Sokoto was arrested in a Governors' Lodge in the presence of an air force officer, after he was searched for by the SSS for so many days and then he was handed over to Zakari Bui, who accompanied him nicely to the road and then told him to go home, and he is telling us that he escaped."

Ogbеh said the ACN condemned those who killed or maimed people as agents of God, pointing out that if those involved escape the justice of man they cannot run away from the justice of God.

Sec't members granted bail

In a related development, a Federal High Court in Abu-

ja yesterday granted bail to six Boko Haram suspects alleged to be masterminds of the bombing of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) office in Suleja, Niger State, in a sum of N2m with one surety in like sum.

The accused persons who are standing a five-count charge on sundry acts of terrorism are Shuaibu Abubakar, Salisu Ahmed, Umar Babagana Umar, Mohammed Ali, Musa Adam and Umar Ibrahim.

The Boko Haram suspects are standing trial for allegedly conspiring among themselves and others now at large to prepare, plant and detonate improvised explosive devices (IED) at various public places which led to the deaths of 16 persons at the INEC office in Suleja on 8 April, 2011.

Other offences alleged to have committed include the death of three persons at a political rally in Suleja on March 3, 2011; deaths of three peace officers on May 23, 2011, at Dakwa village in Bwari Area Council of the FCT, and the deaths of three persons at the All Christian Fellowship Church Suleja, on July 10, 2011. The suspects were also alleged to have been trained in weapons handling by one Ibrahim Bashir Madalla who is still at large.

In her ruling, Justice Bilikisu Aliyu also held that the surety must be a Grade Level 12 civil servant working under the federal government or the Federal Capital Territory Authority and must be resident in Abuja.

According to her, the surety is also to sign a bond of N2m while his status is expected to be confirmed and verified by the prosecution.

Justice Aliyu ordered the six suspects to be remanded in the Kuje prison pending when they would fulfil their bail conditions.

The judge however adjourned to February 7 and 8 for continuation of trial on the grounds that the court could not proceed with the trial of the accused persons due to the absence of the lawyer to some of the accused persons.

Justice Aliyu explained that the suspects were admitted to bail because the State Security Service (SSS) had concluded investigation on the matter.

The accused had earlier pleaded not guilty to the five-count charge of criminal conspiracy and voluntarily causing grievous hurt by dangerous means.

Supreme Court Decides On Wamakko, Others Jan 27

By Ahuraka Isah, Abuja

Appeal".

The Supreme Court yesterday fixed January 27 for its judgment in the appeal challenging the propriety of tenure elongation of five state governors.

Consequently, the apex court yesterday dispatched letters to all the five governors putting them on notice of its intention to deliver judgment in the matter next week Friday.

The five governors are governors Ibrahim Idris (Kogi), Murtala Nyako (Adamawa), Timipre Sylva (Bayelsa), Aliyu Wamako (Sokoto) and Lajel Imoke (Cross River).

The former Lagos State military governor and the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) gubernatorial candidate in the 2011 election, Mohammed Buba Marwa, had, through his lawyer, Chief Wole Olanipekun (SAN), filed the appeal asking the apex court to direct the five governors to vacate their seats on the grounds that they were elected on a four-year tenure which ended on May 29, 2011.

If the Supreme Court upholds the arguments of the appellant, the five governors will have to vacate their seats next week Friday while the speakers of each state's House of Assembly will take over as acting governor for three months pending the conduct of fresh election by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

This line of thought was strengthened on November 28, 2011, when two of the amicus curia (friends of the court) invited by the apex court to advise it on the matter—Chief G.O.K Ajayi (SAN) and Professor Itsey Sagay (SAN)—argued that the tenure of the five governors had lapsed.

But the third amicus curia, Chief Richard Akinjide (SAN), disagreed with his colleagues and averred that the five governors were entitled to the tenure elongation.

The Supreme Court had invited Akinjide, Sagay and Ajayi as amicus curia to come and address it on the matter.

But in the brief submitted to the court yesterday, Akinjide in his conclusion stated that, "it is my view and I so submit that the Oath of Allegiance and Oath of Office taken by the 1st Respondent on May 29, 2007 based on the nullified election cannot be a valid reference point for the calculation of the four-year term of office. His four-year tenure started to run, in law, following the April 30, 2008 Oath of Allegiance and Oath of Office taken pursuant to the re-run election as ordered by the Court of

the apex court. In my humble view, Marwa's appeal should succeed on the grounds that section 180(2) of the constitution does not envisage a situation in which a person can physically occupy the position of governor for more than four years in a single tenure.

Besides, "an election is only nullified effectively with effect from the date of judicial pronouncement. The decision of a court in an annulled election is constitutive of that nullity and therefore cannot have a retrospective effect on the tenure and actions taken by the governors before the nullification order.

Sagay went further to state: "It follows therefore that both the pre-nullification tenure and acts flowing from it are recognizable by law as valid. This means that the period spent in office as governor by the person concerned must count as part of his tenure.

"The court will not lend its aid to an immoral or illegal act, neither will it allow a person to benefit from his wrong or a wrong in his favour.

"Opening the constitutional gate to an indefinite tenure in office by governors is not only contrary to the provisions of the constitution and public policy, but will lead to gross abuse in the Nigerian type of society."

According to Ajayi, "by the combined provisions of sections 180 (1) and 182 (1b) of the constitution, a person can hold the office of governor of a state only for four years per term and that a governor has maximum period of eight years in office.

"The nullification of the elections of the 1st respondent and the other beneficiaries of the decision of the lower court did not perforce result in the nullity of the oaths of allegiance and oaths of office taken by them as governors of their respective states.

The relevant period for the computation of the tenure of the 1st respondent is May 29, 2007 which is the date he took the first oath of allegiance and oath of office as the governor of Adamawa State and not when he took his second oath of allegiance and oath of office in 2008.

"The period the 1st respondent spent in office as the governor of Adamawa State prior to the nullification of the election that brought him to office should be reckoned with in the computation of his term of office.

Under the premises, this court is urged to resolve this appeal against the 1st respondent and vacate the decision of the lower court."

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THE MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

Total Nigeria Fails To Account For N2bn Subsidy Payment

By Adesuwa Tsan, Abuja

Three weeks after the contentious zero-subsidy policy of the federal government and its attendant civil disobedience, the House committee investigating the management of subsidy has ordered the management of To-

tal Oil Nigeria to reappear before it to account for about N2 billion subsidy paid it by the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA).

But even as the investigation

continues, five oil companies have been fingered as defrauding the government by evading tax payment to the Federal Inland Revenue Service

The international oil compa-

ny, which was represented by its managing director, Mr. Francois Bossugo, had, earlier in its presentation before the committee on Wednesday, told the lawmakers that they had never

been overpaid or had cause to repay money to the PPPRA for overpayment of its importation of products in 2011 but could not explain why instead of the N16.6 billion it claimed to have

been paid, the company documents showed that it received about N18 billion for the same consignment.

Speaking before the committee on the role played by Total in the Petroleum Subsidy Fund

ASUU Strike: Parents, Students Laud Suspension

Continued on Page 5



Bishop of Minna Diocese, Rev. Dr. Martin Uzokwu, during the mass burial of the bomb blast victims at St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Madalla, Niger State, yesterday. PHOTO BY ADEFEMI ADEWUYI

Boko Haram Spokesman Abul Qaqa Captured

By Ibanga Isine, Chika Mefor and Michael Oche, Abuja, Abu Nmodu, Minna

- 90 per cent of sect victims are northerners - ACF
- Emir booed as Madalla blast victims get mass burial

A key member of Boko Haram, Abul Qaqa, was arrested by the State Security Service (SSS) yesterday, just as 20 victims of the Christmas Day bomb blast in Madalla, Niger State, were

given mass burial. The Borno State director of the SSS, Ahmed Abdullahi, disclosed on Wednesday night that his officers had arrested the man who goes by the pseudonym Abul Qaqa in Maiduguri.

Qaqa, who had been speak-

ing on behalf of the Boko Haram sect for the past six months, had been issuing statements claiming responsibility for various bomb attacks.

Speaking to newsmen yesterday, the state director of SSS, Mr. Ahmed Abdullahi, said Qaqa was

picked from his hideout in Maiduguri, the capital city of Borno State, through the global positioning tracking system (GPS).

Although Mr. Abdullahi declined comment on the precise area where the sect's spokesman was nabbed, he explained that a

team of experts within the service had been on the trail of the suspect, saying, "We have finally got him and he is currently in our custody," he said.

The director, who would not entertain questions from news-

men on the issue, added, "I can confirm to you that the spokesman of the sect is in our custody and so you can just report this development."

It was gathered that Qaqa, an indigene of Kogi State and a na-

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Confusion As PDP Postpones Convention Indefinitely

73 Die In Egypt's Worst Football Riot

Page 5

Boko Haram Spokesman Abul Qaqa Captured

Continued from front page

tive of Igala tribe, was finally arrested after the SSS had been monitoring his phone calls, despite the fact that he used numerous numbers and always replaced them with new ones.

10 Shortly after the announcement of the capture of the spokesman, an unidentified member of the sect who spoke with reporters on phone confirmed that their spokesman had indeed been nabbed.

11 "Yes, I can confirm to you that our spokesman has been arrested at his residence in Maiduguri. In fact, he was just arrested without any confrontation as he was taken unaware... our warriors who normally guard him were absent when the security agents raided his hideout," the sect member said.

12 He however stated that Qaqa's arrest would not deter the sect from carrying out more violence against the authority and security agents, adding: "Our struggle was not for worldly gain; rather it is to be close to Almighty God by establishing Islamic system of governance, so why would we be discouraged just because one of us was nabbed?"

13 The man assured that the group would make a formal reaction over the issue. "We are ready to sacrifice our lives for this cause as the arrest of one of our top leaders will only further motivate us."

14 Until his arrest, Qaqa served as the go-between between journalists and the Boko Haram sect.

Emir Boed As Madalla Blast Victims Get Mass Burial

Meanwhile, the Emir of Suleja, Malam Awal Ibrahim, was yesterday booted by worshippers during the mass burial of victims of the Christmas Day bombing of St. Theresa's Catholic Church, Madalla, Niger State.

The service, which held at the Catholic Church, was attended by thousands of people from within and outside the country.

A suicide bomber of the Boko Haram sect had, on December 25, 2011, detonated a bomb at the church, killing scores of worshippers including women and children.

At the funeral mass organised by the Catholic Diocese of Minna, 18 victims of the blast were buried, amidst wailing and tears, within the premises of the church.

Trouble started when the monarch, who arrived late for the service, attempted to disembark from his vehicle with a retinue of his aides.

As soon as the emir and his entourage drove into the church, some youths and worshippers who could not find space inside the auditorium started complaining about his presence.

To avoid any unpleasant encounter, the monarch remained inside the vehicle until his presence was announced by the moderator of the service.

"I wish to also announce the presence of the Emir of Suleja, Malam Awal Ibrahim," the moderator said. Once the announcement was made, worshippers

within and outside the church thundered, "No! No! No! No!"

The moderator later invited the monarch to deliver a goodwill message and this led to another round of booing by the worshippers.

The pandemonium continued for several minutes as the leadership of the church made frantic attempts to calm the worshippers, but to no avail.

The situation within and outside the auditorium became so charged that the Bishop of Minna Diocese, Most Rev. Martin Uzoukwu, who also served as chief mourner at the service, held the floor to address the worshippers.

"Beloved brothers and sisters, I appeal to all of you to please, calm down," he pleaded, adding that the best honour to give to the victims of the unprovoked, violence was for the worshippers to pray for peace and unity of the church and the country.

Before their charred remains were interred, a mass was conducted by the Bishop of Minna, assisted by the Archbishop of Abuja Arch Diocese, Most Rev. John Onaiyekan, and other Catholic bishops.

In his sermon, Onaiyekan urged Christians to avoid vengeance but forgive those who wronged and caused them pain and untold hardship.

He said: "We are here to bury those who have died in the blast which was deliberately detonated in the front of the church on the morning of the Christmas Day. Almost all of the victims were

worshippers coming in or going out of the church premises for the Eucharistic celebration that day.

"We live in a country where many people are dying daily. People are dying in their hundreds. We have come to bury those who died with a difference. They were killed in their place of worship on the festival of the birth of Jesus.

"The bomb blast shook our nation. No wonder the news was heard all over the world. They deserve to be listed as martyrs. They have not died in vain. Those who killed others are simply murderers who have no reason to kill.

"It is natural that we feel the pain of the sudden death of our brothers and sisters. May the Lord comfort the family of the bereaved."

Meanwhile, President Goodluck Jonathan has promised that the reorganisation in the police will bring about the necessary change needed to combat insecurity in the country.

Represented by the deputy chaplain, Aso Villa Chapel, Abubakar Machala, the president said the country is ready to wage a renewed war against terrorism.

He said: "Government has started what needs to be done. Already, there is the change in the leadership of the police and there is going to be reorganisation of the police that will bring about credibility in what the security agencies are doing.

Speaking on cooperation with international security agencies,

he said, "The international community, the UN, AU, US are committed to it. It will be a collective thing because terrorism is not just a Nigerian issue; it is a global issue."

Also speaking, Senate president David Mark urged Nigerians not to be intimidated by the activities of the terrorists but remain steadfast in their faith in God.

Mark, who was represented by Senator Ayogu Eze, said the bomb blast was meant to humiliate the country and destroy the peace in the nation.

ACF Condemns Boko Haram, Says Northerners Worst Hit

In a related development, the apex northern socio-cultural body, Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), yesterday said the federal government should commit itself openly and unambiguously in guaranteeing the security of leaders of the Boko Haram sect when they eventually come out for dialogue.

The request was made on the heels of an indication by the federal government that it was ready to engage the Islamic sect in dialogue towards finding a lasting solution to its dastard activities which has claimed lives of innocent citizens and unquantifiable amount of property.

The ACF, which also called on the leaders and members of the Boko Haram to realise that no religious doctrine permits the killing of innocent lives, accused the sect of unnecessarily inflicting terror, death and destruction upon people who are in no way

responsible for whatever injustice they believed was being done to them.

"The federal government should commit itself openly and unambiguously in guaranteeing the security of leaders of Boko Haram when they eventually come out for dialogue as promised by Mr. President," the statement read. "While it is true that the actions of Boko Haram are condemnable, it is also necessary to call on the Federal Government and all our political leaders, as well as all those in positions of authority, to recall the UN Resolution 1963 of 2010 which urge governments around the world to address underlying causes of civil unrest and social conflicts rather than resort to hard military power which rarely solves them."

The ACF also disclosed that more than 90 per cent of persons killed by the Boko Haram sect were citizens of northern extraction.

The chairman of the National Executive Council (NEC) of the ACF, Mr. Aliko Mohammed, who stated this at the conference in Kaduna Wednesday, said that the terrorist group was more of an enemy to the north than the people of the south and the rest of Nigerians.

Mr. Mohammed further claimed that Boko Haram had given no notifications for southerners to leave the north but that the calls had actually emanated from the south where, he noted, northerners were asked to leave.

Confusion As PDP Postpones Convention Indefinitely

By Stanley Nkwocha and George Agba, Abuja

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) seems to be in a quagmire over the conventions and congresses it had slated for January and this month to produce its leadership at national, state and local government levels. This indication emerged yesterday when the party unceremoniously postponed the exercises. Though LEADERSHIP learnt that the exercises were put-off to create more time for consensus to be built among stakeholders before going into the convention but PDP claimed that the election time table released by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) informed the change of time table of its convention and congresses.

The postponement was contained in a press statement signed by the Party's national publicity secretary, Prof. Rufai Ahmed Alkali yesterday. It noted that it was a painful decision taken to avoid double dating as the time table released by INEC clashed with the party's schedule as regards the conduct of the elections in the some states affected by the Supreme Court ruling especially Bayelsa and Adamawa states.

The statement reads in part,

"Similarly, the meetings of the Board of Trustees (BOT) and the National Executive Committee (NEC) earlier scheduled for February 1st and 2nd respectively had also been postponed. New dates shall be announced in due course.

Before the postponement, there were manifest signs that the party was in crisis as it put off its rescheduled National Expanded Caucus and National Executive Council (NEC) meetings billed for yesterday and today respectively.

A top PDP chieftain who craved for anonymity told LEADERSHIP that the postponement was sudden as some members of NEC including governors got wind of the postponement when they arrived in Abuja yesterday.

"I think the president as leader of our great party and the chairman of the party in their own wisdom put-off the meeting so as to clear the coast for consensus building. The way things stand, if the PDP goes into any expanded meeting now, it will deepen the crisis in the party.

LEADERSHIP learnt that one position which has divided the umbrella party is that of the national chairman. Governors from the North-East PDP-states where the position has been zoned to, are

divided on the choice of national chairman of the party.

Jonathan In Crucial Meeting With PDP Govs

President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday held a closed-door meeting with all state governors elected under the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) platform to discuss the controversy that has trailed the Supreme Court judgement that voided the tenure extension of five governors of the party.

The meeting, LEADERSHIP gathered, came after the cancellation of the party's Board of Trustees (BoT) meeting and that of the National Executive Committee (NEC) billed for yesterday and today respectively.

Although the governors refused to speak to journalists after the meeting which started at about 5.30pm and ended at about 8.00pm at the First Lady's Wing of the Presidential Villa, LEADERSHIP learnt that the president and the governors deliberated extensively on the effect of the Supreme Court judgement on the party's future activities, including the postponement of the congresses and national convention where PDP's new national officers are supposed to be elected this February.

Total Nigeria Fails To Account For N2bn Subsidy Payment

Continued from front page

(PSF), he said his company received N16 billion as subsidy payment from PPPRA in 2011 and debunked claims that it was overpaid to the tune of N304 million in 2008 as alleged in an audit report by KPMG which the ad-hoc committee cited.

Jackson Ibanga, general manager, operations, of the company, however informed the committee that they had received overpayment in some instances but had always returned such payments to the PPPRA.

Ibanga assured the committee that they would give the panel all necessary information when they sort it out.

'There Is Fraud In PPPRA's Selection Procedure'

Meanwhile, the chairman and chief executive officer of Inad Oil and Gas Ltd, Bashir Adamu Gusau, has said disclosed that there is fraud in the PPPRA in their selection of participants in the scheme as well as in their template.

Briefing the House of Representatives ad-hoc committee investigating the management

of the subsidy regime yesterday on the involvement of his company, Gusau alleged that incompetent companies were chosen over those that have capacity to do the job.

He revealed that allocations were given to "brief case" companies, while "despite our immense capacity with 50 filling stations we were given allocation of 10,000 metric tonnes instead of 120,000 metric tonnes. It's a system that needs cleansing," he stated.

Oil Firms Involved In Fuel Importation Don't Pay Tax - FIRS Boss

In another development, the executive chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service, Mrs Ifueko Omoigui-Okauru, yesterday disclosed that some companies involved in importation of fuel into the country do not pay tax. Omoigui-Okauru, who refused to name the companies, said the service has decided to move against such companies in a bid to recover the funds.

Omoigui-Okauru said this during the public hearing of the ad-hoc committee on subsidy regime.

The executive chairman

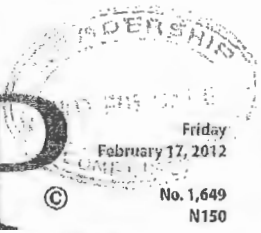
said the tax in question was not Value Added Tax on petroleum products but normal tax that companies registered compulsorily under FIRS pay. She said the companies were five in number.

Responding to questions by the committee, Omoigui-Okauru said the federal government, 10 years ago, gave an order to exempt operators in the sector from paying the Value Added Tax (VAT) in a bid not to transfer the heavy burden to the consumers of fuel.

Pleading with the committee for more time to carry out consultations and get all the necessary documentation required by the ad-hoc committee, she said she would make another presentation next week.

Asked why there is no taxation on diesel despite the fact that it has been deregulated, she said, "Tax was not imposed because the federal government wanted the sector to be fully deregulated. It is when the downstream sector is fully deregulated that all the products could be appropriately taxed and there is a bill already sent to NASS on account of this."

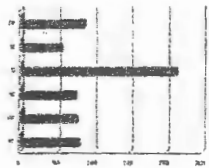
LEADERSHIP



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THE MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

3 Tiers Of Government Share N6trn In 3 Years



BY BLESSING ANARO
Abuja
The Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) distrib-

uted N6 trillion to the three tiers of government between 2008 and 2011, statistics collated by the Federal Ministry of Finance, Office of the Accountant-Gener-

al of the Federation and the National Population Commission have shown. This amount is outside the N1.08 trillion derivation fund shared among nine oil-pro-

ducing states. During this period, the south-south part of the country got N2.14 trillion, about 35.67 per cent of the total amount that was shared. The region equally contributes between 70 and 80

Reps Query N200bn In ECOWAS Tariff Account > Page 16

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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Boko Haram Regroups To Attack Kaduna

3 POLICEMEN killed in Minna

NTDC gives 30-day ultimatum to hoteliers

BY MIDAT JOSEPH, ISAIAH BENJAMIN, Kaduna, CHIKA OTUCHIKERE, Abuja AND ABU NMODU, Minna

Members of the terrorist sect, Boko Haram are presently regrouping to launch fresh attacks on Kaduna. LEADERSHIP gathered from a top security agent that the state's capi-

tal is their main target. The security officer who confided in LEADERSHIP said: "I can confirm to you that these people (Boko Haram) are regrouping in Kaduna.

They have an interest in attacking the state capital; we are seriously working hard to unravel their plans." The security source explained

53 Die In 3 Road Accidents

BY DAVID-CHYDDY ELEKE, Awka; MIDAT JOSEPH, Kaduna, AND NAJIB SANI, Bauchi

It was a harvest of deaths from accidents yesterday as no fewer than 53 people perished in three ghastly road accidents, 15 in Onitsha, 32 in Bauchi and six on the Kaduna-Abuja expressway. In the Bauchi mishap, 24 male and nine female travellers died when two vehicles belonging to Yobe Line had a head-on collision at Azare town. One of the



The mangled body of an articulated vehicle involved in an accident at Onitsha bridge, yesterday. INSET: Some of the victims.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 5

Engr Kure, Ex-Niger Governor, Loses Brother > Page 41

AbdulMutallab Gets Life Sentence > Page 6

3 Tiers Of Government Share N6trn In 3 Years

TOP EIGHT ON DERIVATION LIST

- 1 **RIVERS STATE** got the highest at N331.05 billion
- 2 **AKWA-IBOM STATE** closely following got N274.73 billion
- 3 **DELTA STATE** got N197.85 billion
- 4 **BAVELSA STATE** got N164.7 billion
- 5 **IMO STATE** received N116.41 billion
- 6 **ABIA STATE** got Abia N113.92 billion
- 7 **CROSS RIVER STATE** received N111.44 billion
- 8 **EDO STATE** got N9.41 billion

FROM FRONT PAGE

per cent of the total revenue accruable to the country.

The south-south region, sometimes referred to as the Niger Delta, has a population of 21.03 million, 14.81 per cent of the country's total population.

The south-west got N875.32 billion, 14.58 per cent of total FAAC allocation during the three-year period. The population of the region, according to the statistics, is put at 27.72 million or 19.53 per cent of the total population.

The south-east only region with five states, got N553.11 billion, 9.22 per cent of the total amount shared. The region also has the least population at 16.44



Okonjo-Iweala

million or 11.58 per cent of the country's population.

Generally, the southern part of the country has a population of 65.19 million, about 46 per cent of the country's popula-

tion. It however got N3.68 trillion about 61.33 per cent of total funds shared by FAAC.

On the other hand, the northern part of the country, with a population of 76.78 million, about 54 per cent of the entire population, got NN2.32 trillion, about 38.67 per cent of total amount shared.

Within the northern region, the north-East got the lion's share of N795.92 billion during the three-year period, about 13.25 per cent of the total amount shared. The region has a population of 21.93 million or 15.45 per cent of total population.

The north-west has the highest population in all the six regions with a population of 35.91

million, about 25.29 per cent of the nation's population. It got N774.93 billion or 12.92 per cent of the total amount shared.

The north-central got N747.99 billion or 12.47 per cent of the total amount distributed. The region has a population of 18.94 million, 13.345 per cent of the total population.

Out of the N1.08 trillion derivation fund shared, Rivers State got the highest at N331.05 billion, Akwa Ibom State N274.73 billion, Delta N197.85 billion, Bayelsa N164.7 billion, and Ondo N58.38 million, while Imo state received N16.41 billion.

Others include Abia (N13.92 billion), Cross River (N11.44 billion), and Edo (N9.41 billion).

53 Die In 3 Road Accidents

FROM FRONT PAGE

two was reported to be travelling from Kano while the other was coming from Potiskum.

The corpses have been deposited in various mortuaries of the state hospitals.

Bauchi State Sector commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Zakari Mamman, attributed the accident to impatience and reckless driving.

In a similar development, no fewer than 15 people were reportedly crushed to death in the early hours of yesterday at the foot of the Niger Bridge in the commercial city of Onitsha, Anambra State, when a truck loaded with two 40-footer containers lost control and fell on passersby.

Eyewitnesses said that the accident occurred when some touts collecting emblem fees for the Anambra State government attempted to forcefully stop the truck coming from the Asaba end of the bridge. The vehicle with registration number XM 858 M05 lost control and ran into some oncoming vehicles.

The accident involved seven other vehicles four of which were commercial buses and three private ones going to Asaba from Onitsha.

Mrs. Rose Iwuano, one of the survivors in the mangled buses, said the accident would have been avoidable, if the urchins had not accosted the truck driver.

Four commercial buses with Registration numbers XA 556 BUR, XD 566 ABN, XA 893 ACA and AWK 526 XA were crushed while many of their occupants were killed during the incident.

Mrs. Iwuano, who said she was going to buy things at the Toll-gate, Asaba, before the incident occurred, added: "Our driver noticed that the driver of the truck with two containers was trying to control his truck, our driver tried to escape it but it was too late. Other vehicles were at both sides and even at the back. Then, most of us passed out but what I could remember was a heavy sound. That was when one of the containers from the truck fell off and crushed a bus in front of us

before rolling down towards our own bus."

The 40ft container fell off the truck when the driver lost control, resulting in the heavy truck skidding off the road and running at the other lane ramming into one of the heavy pillars at the bridge-head and somersaulted.

Iwuano told LEADERSHIP that she did not know the number of casualties yet, but said that all those who were involved were likely to die.

An angry mob went on the rampage, setting ablaze a makeshift office of the emblem collectors along the ever-busy Onitsha-Asaba highway. The toll collectors took to their heels.

The activities of the toll collectors were said to have been responsible for loss of lives on the road on several other occasions.

When contacted, the state police public relations officer, Mr. Emeka Chukwuemeka, confirmed the incident, but said that only two people died.

Meanwhile, at least six people were burnt to death in a car accident that occurred in Rikana, along the Kaduna-Abuja expressway.

According to an eyewitness, Yakubu Obande, the accident which happened at around 5pm left 10 other people injured.

He said: "The incident occurred when a J5 vehicle which was conveying people from Sokoto to Abuja caught fire at Rikana village, Jere town."

Only officials of the Federal Road Maintenance Agency were at the scene of the accident, he noted.

The zonal commandant of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Mr. Samuel Aboiyemi, confirmed the incident when contacted.

The cause of the accident had not been established as at press time.



The number of those killed in the three road accidents

Boko Haram Regroups To Attack Kaduna

FROM FRONT PAGE

that the planned attack could be related to the recent arrest of the suspected spokesman of the group, Abul Qaqa. "At the moment, we can't really say who is who in Kaduna. A few of them have fled Maiduguri, Kano and they are now regrouping in Kaduna.

"We cannot really say where they are stationed in Kaduna. But they are in Kaduna and they are trying to attack some places. They have interest in attacking places in Kaduna, but they have not really succeeded. That is why they have been busy planting bombs," he said.

Since the arrest of the spokesman in Kaduna, the group has continued to make efforts to unleash terror on the state.

The security agencies have refused to disclose where the notorious spokesman of the Boko Haram was arrested. Sources said this was deliberate in order to help the people.

But, since the arrest, more than two planted explosives have gone off within the state's metropolis; a police anti-bomb squad man became a victim of one of the bombs.

Security operatives have been working to fish out suspected members of the sect. The state police commissioner, Mr. Ballah Magaji Nasarawa, while addressing newsmen at the Police Command Headquarters, hours after the bomb explosions that killed the police sergeant, said security had been beefed up in the entire state to forestall future occurrence.

He disclosed that the security agencies in the state could be reached on the following hotlines - 08123822284, 07039675856 and 08081708671 - and that residents could report suspected movements of persons or objects.

Meanwhile, as part of measures to forestall any attempt to use the hotels for criminal activities, the Nigerian Tourism Development Commission (NTDC), has given a 30-day ultimatum for hotels to comply with the directive to register the identity of their customers and staff members.

The director-general of NTDC, Otumba Olusegun Runsewe, gave the directive in Abuja, saying that the hospitality industry would not

be used for criminal activities.

He stated: "Following security threats by Boko Haram in some parts of the country, the Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC) has decided to take proactive measures to provide safety for Nigerians, foreigners and tourists; eateries and other tourism outlets should register with the Corporation or be shut down.

"In addition, they should give details of the profiles of their staff including their nationalities for necessary checks by the security agencies.

"The directive has a nationwide application. It is a punishable offence to run a hotel or other hospitality enterprises without a signboard.

"The identity of every staff in the industry is required. There are reasons to suspect that many illegal aliens are engaged in the hospitality business in Nigeria to the detriment of qualified and able-bodied Nigerians.

"We cannot afford to allow our hospitality enterprises to be used as dens for crime and criminalities.

"The corporation is, by law, empowered to register all hotels and other hospitality enterprises to provide a comprehensive database for effecting the necessary regulation in the industry."

In a related development, unknown gunmen yesterday night attacked the popular M I Wushi Housing Estate in Minna, Niger state capital, killing three policemen barely 24 hours after a police outpost was attacked in Maje Suleja, killing a policeman.

LEADERSHIP gathered that the policemen whose identities were yet to be disclosed were a corporal, a sergeant and an Inspector who were on duty at the outpost of the housing estate.

It was gathered that the gunmen were able to sneak into the entrance to the estate shortly before 8pm - about the same time they attacked Maje police outpost when the PHCN had cut power and everywhere was dark.

An eyewitness told LEADERSHIP that the gunmen took the policemen by surprise, as they opened fire killing three of the men on duty instantly and left with their rifles.

It was learnt that the confused occupants of the gate immediately informed the Maitumbi police station before some officers arrived from headquarters to take the bodies of the deceased policemen.

The police had cordoned off the area. Some of the occupants of the estate still outside were not allowed into the estate.

The police public relations officer, Richard Oguche, confirmed the attack but said he could not say anything more. "I am just on my way there with my other officers, please," he said.

Bomb Detonated At Police Barracks

Meanwhile, what again would have possibly resulted in a major calamity was yesterday averted when an improvised explosive device (IED) targeted at the mounted troops police barracks at Kabala Doki in Kaduna was detonated by men of the police anti-bomb squad.

The explosive device was placed beside a house inside the barracks by an unknown person.

When contacted, the police public relation officer, DSP Aminu Lawan confirmed the incident but debunked that it was targeted at a church.

"A bomb was discovered near the police barracks at Kabala Doki, our men from the anti-bomb squad detonated it successfully with no casualty recorded."

The Worst Is Over In Borno - Gov Shettima

Also, Governor Kashim Shettima of Borno State, has assured that the worst security situation in the state is over. He disclosed that no single member of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), was killed during the long period of Boko Haram insurgency in his state.

Shettima who made this known yesterday when he paid an official visit to the minister of youth development, Mallam Bolaji Abdulahi in Abuja at the federal secretariat office of the ministry to ease the tension among corps members' posting to troubled states. He added that his government is leaving no stone unturned to safe guard lives and property of all residents in the state.

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THE MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

CBN Donates N25m To Madalla Bomb Blast Victims

BY GLORIA EZEIRU, Abuja

Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) governor, Mallam Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, yesterday led the bank's management team to commiserate with Saint Theresa's Catholic Church, Madalla, Suleja, over the Christmas Day bomb blasts that killed more than 40

people. The bank announced a donation of N25m to families of victims of the bomb blast.

Sanusi informed the leaders of the church and other parishioners

that the management of the CBN was there to express its condolences and to commiserate with the church and the Madalla community who were affected by the unfor-

tunate incident.

He stated that what happened was despicable, in that it took place at a holy place and on a holy day. According to Mallam Sanusi, "when

you bomb a church on a Sunday or Christmas day and a Mosque on a Friday or Eid day, such actions have implications far beyond the immediate faithful or community."

Sanusi said that, as a responsible corporate citizen, the CBN in

FG Delays PHCN Privatisation Again

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Abul Qaqa: How We Carried Out Suicide Bombings

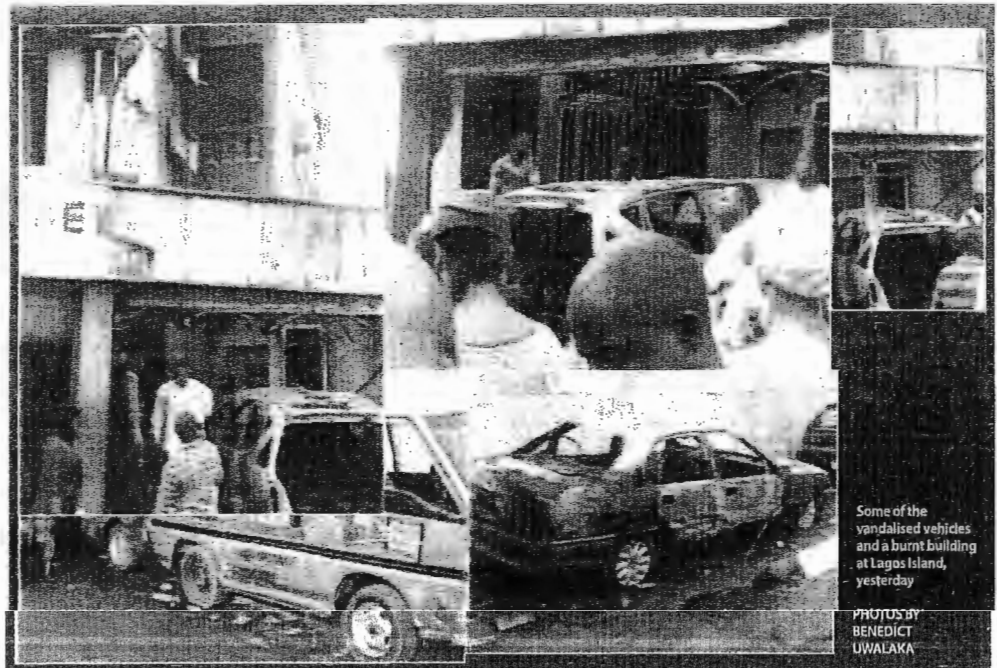
- Police nab 5 suspects over Suleja blast
- JTF kills 8 Boko Haram members In Maiduguri PAGE 5

Steer Clear Of 2015 Campaign, Jonathan Warns Ministers, Aides

BY STANLEY NKWOCHA, Abuja

President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday warned ministers, aides and other political appointees against campaigning for any office in 2015, saying that anyone who contravened the directive would be eased out of his government.

Speaking at the 58th National Executive Council, NEC, of the Peoples Democratic Party in Abuja, Jonathan frowned at meetings being held ahead of 2015. Such distractive tendencies, he said, would prevent the government



Some of the vandalised vehicles and a burnt building at Lagos Island, yesterday

PHOTOS BY BENEDICT UWALAKA

CONTINUES ON PAGE 5

Again, NURTW Clash Claims 15 Lives In Lagos

> Page 17

Subsidy Removal Pushes Inflation To 12.6%

> Page 4

Abul Qaqa: How We Carried Out Suicide Bombings

BY TONY AMOKEODO, CHIKA OTUCHIKERE AND EMMA OKERE. Abuja; SUNNY NWANKWO, Maiduguri; AND ABU NMODUJ, Minna

Detained Boko Haram kingpin Abul Qaqa has made further revelations on the modus operandi of the sect.

Qaqa, who was recently arrested by operatives of the State Security Service (SSS) in a dramatic move to checkmate the increasing activities of the sect, has revealed how the sect carries out different suicide bombings in the northern part of the country.

A source close to his interrogators also confided in LEADERSHIP last night that the former spokesman of the sect revealed how the vehicles used for the bombings were snatched at gunpoint, and how the inexpensive cars are used for suicide bombing.

"We snatch those vehicles at gun point. We use the less expensive ones for suicide bombings and just load vehicles with bombs, drive them near our target park, get out of it and leave them to explode thereafter," he said.

Qaqa said the exotic cars were converted by the sect's leader, Shekau, for his personal use while he promises the sect members that they would be sold to raise funds for the Jihad.

He further revealed that the leadership of the sect used the more expensive cars to hoodwink security agents at checkpoints by posing as if they were some influential personalities on a fancy ride.

Qaqa also revealed the controversy which brewed over the disbursement of largesse. According to him, the leadership gave out favours to members on grounds

of tribalism and favouritism, a development which, he said, angered those who did not benefit.

He said: "The leadership (Shekau) takes the expensive (exotic) cars, always saying that he would arrange for them to be sold and the proceeds put into the Jihad. This is never done, anyway. Most of those vehicles end up with him and the Kanuri members of our sect."

"They use them to pose and deceive security agents at checkpoints. The distribution (utilization) of these stolen vehicles is on 'man-know-man. 'Man-know-tribes man' became another source of anger and acrimony, but you have to bear it or you die. Once you are in, you are in. If you attempt to leave, you are seen as a traitor who must die."

JTF Kills 8 Boko Haram Members, 3 Civilians Wounded

Meanwhile, business activities at the Baga Road Market in Maiduguri metropolis of Borno State were yesterday afternoon paralyzed, following a gun battle between the Joint Task Force (JTF) and the Boko Haram members.

In the encounter that lasted many hours, eight members of the sect were reportedly killed by the superior powers of the JTF while three civilians were seriously wounded.

Confirming the incident, JTF spokesman Lt. Col. Hassan Mohammed, said, the JTF killed eight Boko Haram members who attacked and wounded three civilians at the Baga Road Market.

He further revealed that the JTF demobilised three improvised explosive devices (IEDs) which the sect members had planted, while

other dangerous weapons in their possession were recovered.

Meanwhile, the three civilians that were wounded, according to Lt. Col. Hassan, have been taken to the hospital where they are receiving treatment. The entire market area was cordoned off by the soldiers.

But the *Agence France Presse (AFP)* quoted a witness as saying that 30 people died during the shootout.

"It's true the number of dead could not be less than 30," a Maiduguri hospital nurse told the AFP. A witness gave a similar death toll.

Police Arrest Five Suspects Over Bomb Blast In Suleja

In a related development, the police have arrested five major suspects behind the Sunday bomb blast that rocked the parking space of the Christ Embassy and Crasia Hotel, along Morocco Road in Suleja, Niger State.

LEADERSHIP gathered that immediately after the blast, the police in Niger State mobilised the special squad of the command to black spots and the five suspects were apprehended late Sunday night.

It was further learnt that the police had worked on eyewitnesses to get tip-off which helped to crack down on the five suspects.

The commissioner of police, Niger State Command, Alhaji Ibrahim Maishanu, confirmed that the five suspects had been arrested and transferred to Zone 7 headquarters in Abuja for further investigation.

The commissioner said that, after the incident, the police launched an investigation and five people who were suspected to be the mastermind were arrested.

Maishanu said that it was discovered that the explosive was planted in a vehicle in front of the Grasa Guest Inn, which was a few metres away from the Christ Embassy Church.

According to him, when the bomb exploded, it damaged four vehicles parked at the scene and inflicted injuries on five people which included two carrot sellers and a small baby.

The chief medical director of the Suleja Hospital assured that three of the victims would be discharged while the other two had been referred to the Specialist Hospital, Gwagwalada, for further medical attention.

The commissioner, who refused to give the names of the suspects, said: "Investigation is in progress, the case has been transferred to Zone 7 headquarters in Abuja for further investigation."

The police boss said that the blast would have been more devastating if not for the vigilance of security agents and the alertness of people to keep off before the explosive went off between two cars.

The commissioner said the state command had supported the families of its officers who lost their lives to attacks by unknown gunmen last week in MI Wushishi Housing estate Minna and Maje in Suleja with N700,000.

Maishanu said N200,000 was given to each of the families of the three late officers - two at Maitumbi division and one at Suleja division - while the sum of N100,000 was given to the injured police officer who was still in the hospital.

Army Disowns Captain Bahago

Also, the Nigerian Army has re-

futed a media report that one of its officers, Captain Bahago, was a fleeing Boko Haram suspect.

In a press statement signed by Col. O U Abdul, director of army public relations, and made available to LEADERSHIP yesterday, the Nigerian Army insisted it had no such name in its employment, saying that the suspect might have adopted the name in order to impersonate and probably hide his real identity.

It regretted that the source did not consider it necessary to contact the authorities in the Nigerian Army before rushing to press.

It therefore advised that the Nigerian Army should be contacted before such reports are published as it borders on national security.

A national daily (not LEADERSHIP) had reported last weekend that Captain Bahago along with seven others had been declared wanted by the police in connection with Boko Haram activities.

CBN Donates N25m To Madalla Bomb Blast Victims

2006 came up with a policy framework on corporate social responsibility (CSR) which was approved by its board. Thus, in keeping with this policy, the Committee of Governors met and took a decision to donate in order to alleviate the plight of those affected in Madalla and Kano, he explained.

The CBN governor said that the CBN management went to Kano on Friday, and planned to be at Madallah the next Monday, but was told on Saturday that the bishop of Minna, Most Rev. Dr. Martin Igwe Uzoukwu, had travelled to Owerri. According to Sanusi, the church fixed Thursday last week for the visit, but because he would be out of the country for an assignment, the bank requested Monday to ensure that the governor was personally present at today's event rather than send a representative.

He noted that even though money could not compensate for lives, the N25million donation was a token contribution to help the families of the victims of the attack within and around the church.

The bishop of Minna Diocese, Most Rev. Dr. Martin Igwe Uzoukwu, thanked the CBN governor and the management of the bank for their good gesture, stating that the CBN's contribution would go a long way to help the victims.

Earlier, the parish priest, Very Rev. Father Isaac Achi, recounted the unfortunate incident on that Christmas morning that took the lives of 44 people, with many receiving severe injuries. He stated that the coming of the CBN governor was a testimony to the concern the governor and his team have for the wellbeing of all Nigerians.

Steer Clear Of 2015 Campaign, Jonathan Warns Ministers, Aides

from delivering democracy dividends and affect party unity. Until the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, releases its time-table for 2015, he stated, party stakeholders must continue to work towards the actualization of the government's transformation agenda.

The president said: "Let me also plead with those who are interested in the general elections in 2015, as I have noticed that some people have just started some meetings. It is too early to hold meetings but people must respect the electoral laws and the constitution as INEC normally declares it open."

"The idea is that people who were elected into the offices as governors and president be given time to work. In a situation whereby a governor has not even stayed for a year, the president has not stayed for a year, and you start harassing people for 2015 is another way of saying everything is election. There must be time to work. At the federal level, if you are holding a political office and I notice that you are involved in



meetings for 2015 election I will ask you to leave and go and hold your meetings, because that meeting is too early and government must not be distracted. Nigerians are interested in what we put on ground for them, not how many elections we will conduct and win," Jonathan said.

Jonathan, who congratulated the governors of Sokoto, Bayelsa, Adamawa and Kogi states on their elections, called for continued unity, promising that the era of imposition was over in the party as, henceforth, elections will become a focal point in the party.

The president continued: "I plead that the unity of the party and the cooperation of all of us

is paramount and we should not fight ourselves because it will not translate to dividends of democracy, because for PDP to be regarded as a party that has succeeded that means that the governors will perform, the president and the states will perform. What we want are roads, good roads, health facilities, power and so on, not people wearing boxing gloves and doing shadow boxing in different forms.

"We belong to the same party, we must believe in the party and the party must discipline us including Mr. President. We must emulate what happened in South Africa, because ANC is a strong party. Even when the president feels he is bigger than the party, they would push him out from the party. So, nobody should be bigger than the party; the party must insist on that."

"We are going in for election now to elect our party officials and I plead that from the ward congresses to the national congresses, let us insist that people are elected democratically."

"Let us begin to move from the culture of imposition, because if we start this from our party, then,

of course, we are sure that primaries or general elections in 2015 will also be democratic and, of course, the general elections will also be free and fair. And as a party we've been able to develop that culture at the presidential election and we can maintain that."

The president ordered the immediate withdrawal of the November 2011 Subsidy, Reinvestment and Empowerment (SURE) programme booklet that adorned the seats of the venue of the meeting, saying it had become necessary to withdraw them so that Nigerians do not think the government was playing politics with its promises, more so that the expected source of funding for the SURE programme - fuel subsidy - only witnessed partial success in terms of removal and hence limiting the expected funds from government.

"I think as I came in I saw this SURE book being distributed, we are withdrawing it. This is the old one that we developed with the expectation that we were going to completely deregulate the downstream of the oil industry by 100 per cent removal of subsidy."

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THE MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

We'll Prosecute Suspected Christian Church Bombers — Police

BY NAMB SANI, Bauchi

The Bauchi State Police Command has said that it would prosecute the seven suspected Christian church members apprehended in Sunday's attempted bombing of the Bauchi State branch of the Church of Christ In Nigeria, COCIN, in

Miya Barkatai, Toro Local government area.

The Commissioner of Police Mr Ikechukwu Aduba who made this known to LEADERSHIP yesterday,

explained that the suspects were caught with dangerous weapons and explosives with which they tried to demolish the place of worship.

He added that the planned attack blamed on a factional group within the church was as a result of their alleged perpetual internal problems which he said, led to

one of the warring groups deciding to attack the Church last Sunday morning.

"Immediately we got the report, we deployed our men who arrested seven of the suspects with something like explosives and we are

LGAs To Stop Collecting Tax — FIRS Page 15

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DIALOGUE

Atiku Challenges Boko Haram

• Fear of sect rattles Asokoro • Gunmen kill 6 in Kaduna, 3 in Yola > Page 5

OJUKWU'S FINAL JOURNEY

Jonathan, Military, Others Pay Last Respects

BY BAYO OLADEJI, GEORGE AGBA, GRACE AZUBUIKE, ADESUWA TSAN, Abuja, AND STANLEY UZOARU, Owerri

The remains of Ikemba Nnewi, Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu, yesterday arrived at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja in a British Airways plane accompanied by his wife, Bianca Ojukwu, Governor Peter Obi and



L-R: Wife of the Senate President Mrs. Helen Mark, First Lady Dame Patience Jonathan; Vice President Namadi Sambo; Senate President David Mark and his Deputy Ike Ekweremadu, walk pass the remains of late Ojukwu in Abuja, yesterday. PHOTO BY REMI AKUNLEYAN

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Money Laundering: Ibori Pleaded Guilty In London

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Explosion: Jonathan Orders Minister, Chevron To Pay Compensation

> Page 4

We'll Prosecute Suspected Christian Church Bombers

— Police

BY SONI DANIEL, Abuja, MIDAT JOSEPH, Kaduna, SUNNY NWANKWO, Maiduguri

waiting for the bomb experts to confirm because some times after investigation it may turn out to be something not the Improvised Explosives Devices", he said.

Aduba said investigation was currently on-going after which, he said, the culprits would be arraigned. He asked people of the area to remain calm.

Eye witnesses however disclosed that the incident had caused high tension as other members of the church wanted to lynch the accused bombers but were prevented by security agents who took them to the state police headquarters. A source in the church named the arrested suspects as Bulus Haruna, Yohannah Ishaya, Phillip Danaka and Joshua Ali.

Others were Danjuma Sabo, Daniel Ayuba, Simon Gabriel and Bakem Audu.

The incident has elicited series of reactions from different organizations.

Religious and Peace Mission Organization Bauchi condemned the act and asked the police and other relevant authorities to ensure that the suspects are brought to book to serve as a deterrent to others.

Bauchi State Chairman of Muslim-Christian Peace Movement Aminu Sidi also condemned the attempted blast in a statement issued to journalists yesterday in Bauchi. He expressed concern with the attitude of security agents in trying to cover this type of incident.

Our correspondent gathered that recently, one lady Mrs Lydia Emmanuel who attempted to set Saint John's Catholic Church Bauchi ablaze was charged to court but later had her case transferred to Abuja.

Atiku Challenges Boko Haram

BY SONI DANIEL, Abuja, MIDAT JOSEPH, Kaduna, SUNNY NWANKWO, Maiduguri

As the Boko Haram sect continues to unleash a wave of unrestrained mayhem in many parts of the North, former vice president, Atiku Abubakar, has challenged the group to come out openly and state its grievances for possible resolution.

Atiku, in his first major reaction to the group's lethal attacks yesterday, urged the members to seize the opportunity offered for dialogue with the Federal Government in the interest of unity, stability and economic development of the country.

In a statement from his media office in Abuja, Atiku, said that no one would take the group or its agenda seriously as long as it continues to remain faceless.

"If Boko Haram and its leadership have something to say, if they have any grouse against the Nigerian state, the proper thing for them is to come out in flesh and state it, so that a process of dialogue that will eventually lead to the resolution of the crisis and the siege on Nigerians can commence in earnest," Atiku said.

He expressed his condolences to the affected families and government and people of Plateau and Gombe states over the weekend killings in those states.

Fear of Boko Haram rattles Asokoro

Meanwhile, the fear of the destructive group, Boko Haram, yesterday caused a major stir in Asokoro, one of the most expensive areas in Abuja where the rich and the mighty live.

The confusion set in as parents and pupils of New Capital School, Asokoro, arrived the school and were greeted by a suspicious vehicle that had crashed into the main entrance of the school, thereby raising the fear of an attack.

The rickety Toyota Camry Sedan vehicle, marked Abuja BH 812 RBC, is said to have rammed into the crèche and nursery section of the school on Kwame Nkrumah Street, Asokoro, on

Sunday night, with the impact of the collision cutting the main gate into two, in the process.

On sighting the suspicious car and the extent of its damage on the gate, most of the parents, who had gone to drop off their wards, raised the alarm that it was the handiwork of Boko Haram and immediately threatened to turn back with their children.

"This is the work of Boko Haram and nothing else!" one of the female parents, who have two children in the school, exclaimed.

"We have to act fast and leave this place before the bomb explodes", another man, whose only son is in the crèche section of the school, said, as he jumped into his car and sped off.

Despite strident assurances by frightened officials of the school that they had already reported the matter to the police, many of the parents, who had earlier dropped their wards, threatened to withdraw them until the suspected vehicle was either removed or scanned by bomb disposal experts.

Unconvinced by the pleas of the officials not to withdraw their children, the parents marched to the primary section of the school to see its proprietor, who was not in the compound at the time, and they returned to the scene.

The nerves of the parents were however calmed when the administrator, Ngozi Cordelia, assured them that the police were on their way to the school to examine and remove the vehicle and appealed to the anxious parents to relax.

When the police finally arrived, they decided to tow the vehicle away. Paul, a police corporal who led the team, told our correspondent that the driver of the vehicle, who was said to be in an undisclosed location, would be questioned on what happened.

He said the vehicle would be subjected to proper examination to determine whether it was on any sinister mission to the school premises or not.

The driver of the car, in which a set of praying beads and a used hon-

ey bee container were found, told the police that he rammed into the school while trying to avoid a car that crossed his path, a submission the police want to probe further.

Protest against killing of 6 in Kaduna

Similarly, hundreds of women and youths yesterday staged a two-hour protest in Kaura Local Government Area of Kaduna State to register their displeasure over the killing of six villagers by gunmen in two separate attacks.

The protesters were demanding an end to the incessant killings by hit-and-run gunmen.

The state governor, Sir Patrick Ibrahim Yakowa condemned all the attacks, saying it was against his peace initiative for the state.

LEADERSHIP gathered the attackers stormed Budum Village in Piga chiefdom, Saminaka, area of Lere LGA and killed four persons and injured four others, who are currently receiving treatment at the Saminaka General Hospital.

While the attack was ongoing in the community, another set of assailants descended on Kaura Local Government Area and killed two men and injured a woman.

The Council chairperson, Mrs. Florence Aya, confirmed the development to LEADERSHIP Kaduna State Police Spokesman, Aminu Lawal, who confirmed the double attack, said police had commenced investigation into the incidents with a view to arresting the hoodlums.

But a statement by the senior special assistant to the governor on media and publicity, Mr. Reuben Buhari, condemned the attacks, which he said were capable of disrupting the peace initiatives of the administration.

Five killed as robbers attack bullion van in Borno

In a related development, five persons, among them, two policemen, were killed yesterday when suspected armed robbers attacked a bullion van about 50 kilometers from Maid-

uguri, the Borno State capital.

The deceased included the bank's staff and the police escorts, who were on their way to Damaturu to convey money to the main branch of a commercial bank.

Borno Police Spokesman, Mr. Samuel Tizhe, an assistant superintendent of police, who confirmed the incident, said however that two of the robbers were also killed in the gun duel with the police.

According to him, two other policemen and the driver of the van sustained injuries from gunshot and had been admitted for treatment.

3 policemen killed in Yola

Some gunmen, suspected to be Boko Haram members riding on motor-cycles have killed three police officers at a checkpoint in Yola, Adamawa State.

The Associated Press (AP) also quoted police spokeswoman, Altine Daniel, as confirming this yesterday. She said two officers died on the spot and another died in a hospital after Sunday's attack in a town close to Adamawa's border with Borno State.

Daniel said a fourth officer is receiving treatment in a hospital.

She said cans that appeared to be homemade explosives had been found in the area, saying that it was too early to say the police suspected any specific group.

FG departs 11,000 foreigners over Boko Haram

In a bid to check the activities of the dreaded sect, the federal government has repatriated no fewer than 11,000 foreigners, mostly from Niger and Chad over the last six months.

Immigrations spokesman, Joachim Oumba, told a foreign news agency in Abuja yesterday, updating an earlier figure.

"The bulk of them are from Niger and Chad," he said.

Many of those who aid and abet the Boko Haram in its fight against security agents are known to have crossed the nation's borders illegally to carry out their nefarious activities.

Ojukwu's Final Journey: Jonathan, Military, Others Pay Last Respects

BY SONI DANIEL, Abuja

other prominent Igbo sons.

In attendance at the ceremony in the Presidential Wing of the airport were President Goodluck Jonathan represented by his vice, Namadi Sambo, First Lady Dame Patience Jonathan, the Senate President David Mark and his wife Helen, Deputy Senate President Ike Ekweremadu, Deputy Speaker House of Representatives Emeka Ihedioha, the Defence Minister Dr. Bello Halliru, FCT Minister Bala Mohammed and the United States Ambassador to Nigeria, Terence McCulley.

However, President Goodluck Jonathan who spoke through the Vice President, Namadi Sambo, extolled the virtues of the former Biafran warlord, Chief Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu, saying

that his abiding quest for good governance, accountability, probity and professionalism became the hall mark of the Nigerian Army.

He said: "Let it not be said that Ojukwu died when the country needed his services most. Let it rather be said that Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu lived and served with all his might when the Igbo and Nigerians needed him most. No words can adequately express the nature, character, legacy and lessons bequeathed by this soldier and gentleman".

Jonathan stated that the legacies bequeathed to the Nigerian Army by Chief Ojukwu as its first Quartermaster-General were unique.

Other dignitaries at the ceremony were Chief Tom Ikimi, Senator Chris Ngige, Secretary to the Government of the Federation

Senator Anayo Ibe Anayo, Senator Uche Chukwumeriri, Professor ABC Nwosu, Lt. Gen. Chris Obiakor (rtd), Durban Onyia and other prominent Nigerians.

On his part, Senate President David Mark, noted that late Ojukwu had continued to draw accolades from Nigerians.

In her remarks, First Lady Dame Patience Jonathan noted that the late Odumegwu Ojukwu was not only an icon, but also the pride of his people and urged all Nigerians to emulate his good qualities, describing him as an accomplished Nigerian leader.

The Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Emeka Ihedioha, described the death of the late Dim Ojukwu as Nigeria's loss of a political treasure. In a colourful military parade held in his honour, the Chief of

Armstrong, Brigadier General Ihejirika, said that Ojukwu was one of the first few Nigerian officers to enlist into the Army with a degree.

Ihejirika said that as at then the Army deport Zaria was meant for Primary Six holders, but Ojukwu joined with his degree and helped to shore up the image of the military which was then regarded as a profession for drop outs.

In his remark, Senator Chris Ngige noted that Ojukwu's popular thinking was against regional arrangement and that was why he joined APGA.

On his part, the Chairman of APGA, Chikwasa Okorie, said that Ojukwu was a selfless leader who identified with the poor and the downtrodden in the society and never had a house of his own until 2008. The house in Queens Drive Ikoyi belonged to his father and

that was where he was buried.

Meanwhile, a condolence register was opened at the headquarters of the 82 division of the Nigerian Army in Enugu.

At a brief ceremony at the division, the General Officer Commanding (GOC), Maj-Gen. Olayinka Oshinowo, wished the late leader a rest in peace.

In a related development, Owerri, the Imo State capital yesterday stood still for the late Igbo leader Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu when his remains arrived the state.

It was a fanfare-like atmosphere, rather than the usual mourning that the ceremony was, as his body touched down the Sam Mbakwe Airport at exactly 3pm and was driven in a motorcade through the streets of Owerri down to the Owerri State

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THE MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

Nigeria Ranks 44th Globally In External Reserves

BY NSE ANTHONY-UKO, Abuja

● **WORLDWIDE** China 1st **AFRICA** Algeria 1st, Libya 2nd, S/Africa 3rd, Nigeria 4th

Nigeria currently ranks 44th position globally in the size of its external reserves, which has been put at US\$34.68 billion as at March 8, 2012.

LEADERSHIP indicates that China, with its US\$3.18 trillion, has the highest foreign exchange reserves.

counts for more than 30 per cent of global foreign reserves, while Asia accounts for two-thirds of global reserves.

with an external reserves position of US\$185.9 billion as at December 2011. Nigeria ranks fourth behind Libya and South Africa, which has US\$71.99 bil-

lion and US\$54.45 billion in that order to occupy the 2nd and third positions in Africa and 27th and

→ CONTINUES ON PAGE 5

Boko Haram Picks Datti Ahmed As Mediator

● **Army chiefs begin security meeting over sect**

> Page 5

Man Attempts Suicide, Says Atiku Owes Him N15m

- Climbs telecoms mast in protest
- He is suffering from mental disorder

— Atiku's aide

BY AHURAKA ISAH, Abuja

A man called Mallam Musa Inuwa yesterday created a scare in the premises of a Federal High Court in Abuja when he climbed a telecommunications mast, about



Mallam Musa Inuwa (middle), the man who climbed a telecoms mast in an attempt to commit suicide at the Federal High Court in Abuja, yesterday. INSETS: Inuwa on top of the mast. PHOTO BY ADEFEMI ADEWUYI

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200 Escape Death As Intra-city Train Kills 12 Cows In Kaduna > Page 6

Wife Bathes Classmate With Acid For Attempting To Snatch Husband > Page 6

Boko Haram Picks Datti Ahmed As Mediator

Army chiefs begin security meeting over sect

BY MIDAT JOSEPH, Kaduna; BAYO OLADEJI, ABUJA; MUAZU ABARI, Yola; AND SALISU IBRAHIM, Kano

After years of frequent bomb attacks on security formations, religious houses and killings of innocent citizens within the northern states, the Boko Haram sect has agreed to cease fire on two conditions.

The group has named the president of the Supreme Council for Sharia in Nigeria, Sheikh Ahmed Datti, as their mediator. It said the choice of Datti was based on the fact that its former leader, the late Mohammed Yusuf, served as a member that represented Borno State in the council of Sharia in Nigeria, the cleric could be trusted not to betray the confidence reposed in him to speak for the sect, a source close to the group told LEADERSHIP yesterday.

The source added that the group was ever ready to stop the bombings in the next four weeks only if the federal government would release all its arrested members as well as guarantee the security and safety of all members whose names would be given to the federal government through Datti.

The source said, "What the sect is asking the federal government now is to give them the assurance that once they come to the public after the hostilities, their safety and security would be guaranteed.

"The sect members have also agreed that once the two conditions are met, within four weeks, they will put an end to the hostilities. I am afraid, the members of the sect may resume to more action should the federal government fail to heed the conditions."

Army chiefs begin security meeting over sect

However, senior army officers made up of lieutenant generals, brigadier generals and colonels yesterday began a security meeting in Abuja mainly to smoke the Boko Haram sect out of its hide-den places.

The programme is the maiden Nigerian Army Transformation Stakeholders' Conference with the theme, "Enhancing the Implementation Strategy for the Nigerian Army Transformation Agenda".

Chief of army staff Lieutenant General Azubike Ihejirika in his opening address said transformation is needed to enable the army adapt to the ever-changing security environment and better be able to deal with contemporary challenges.

He said about 2,000 troops are in Jaji and Kachia undergo-



Chief of army staff Azubike Ihejirika

ing training on counter-terrorism and that monitoring forces have been set up to move around the country to monitor the conduct of troops on civil duty.

On the use of army uniforms by Boko Haram bombers for easy passage in their bombing campaigns, the chief of army staff said the problem has existed for long and called for a law that would outlaw its use by unauthorized persons.

This, he said, is more so as the army has no control over how they come into the country, especially with the porous nature of the country's borders. While describing last Sunday's Jos incident as unfortunate, he said all officers have been directed to subject themselves to searches. He called on prominent citizens to cooperate with soldiers by doing likewise.

He listed areas that require transformation to include change of attitude, de-politicization to professionalism, and modernization with a purpose, change of ideas rather than just modernization and adaptation to changing security environment.

Gunmen, soldiers' clash claims 5 lives in Adamawa

In a related development, less than 24 hours after the killing of five people in Mubi town, one of the commercial nerve-centres in Adamawa State, which sparked violent protests by the residents of the area who were protesting the killings of the youths belonging to the community, a gun battle ensued yesterday night between the military and some unidentified gunmen. Five people including a police Inspector, one soldier and three civilians lost their lives while others were injured.

Some residents of the area told LEADERSHIP that they had sleepless night as a result of sporadic gunshots across the town which lasted hours and nobody

could tell the exact number of casualties.

Another source said that he saw four dead bodies on the ground. It was gathered that a local bomb was thrown into the military patrol vehicle by unknown gunmen who engaged the military in a shootout.

All efforts to get the reaction of the army spokesman, Lieutenant Victor Olukoya, proved abortive as his lines were not going through. But, confirming the incident to journalists, the police public relations officer (PPRO), ASP Aline Daniel, told journalists that some unidentified gunmen laid ambush on a security patrol vehicle along Ahmadu Bello Way in Mubi and engaged the military personnel in a shootout. Three civilians, one police Inspector and a soldier were killed, he said. At the time of filing this report, there was palpable tension and fear among the residents of Mubi town.

Gunmen kill 2 policemen, 1 soldier, attack JTF in Kano

Gunmen, suspected to be Boko Haram members, yesterday opened fire at a Gwammaja checkpoint in Kano, killing two policemen and one soldier, while wounding a civilian, residents and a police source said.

The *Agence France Presse (AFP)* also reports that the attack was the latest targeting police in Kano by the members of the sect.

"I just heard that we lost two men and a soldier in an attack on a checkpoint," a police source said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak publicly.

Meanwhile, gunmen suspected to be members of Boko Haram yesterday exchanged gunshots with members of the Joint Task Force (JTF) in Kano.

The police public relations officer Magaji Musa Majja, confirmed the attack but declined further comment.

Nigeria Ranks 44th Globally In External Reserves

FROM FRONT PAGE

32nd positions globally.

Only Algeria's foreign reserves made it into the top 20 countries globally, ranking 12th, ahead of the United States of America with US\$149.5 billion (18th position); France, US\$172.2 billion (16th); and United Kingdom with US\$123.58 billion (19th position).

On the global scale, coming behind China is Japan which has external reserves of US\$1.29 trillion and Saudi Arabia with US\$556.0 billion.

Other countries within the top 20 category include Russia US\$498 billion (fourth), Taiwan US\$385 billion (fifth), Brazil US\$357 billion (6th), Switzerland US\$340 billion (7th), South Korea, US\$311 billion (8th), India US\$296 billion (9th), Hong Kong, US\$285 (10th) and Germany US\$257 billion (11th).

Others include Singapore US\$245 billion (12th), Thai-

land US\$176 billion (14th), Italy US\$173 billion (15th), Mexico US\$149.2 billion (17th), Malaysia, US\$134 billion (19th) and Indonesia US\$112 billion (20th).

Meanwhile, data released by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) yesterday showed that Nigeria's foreign exchange reserves fell from \$35.03 billion as at February 13, 2012, to US\$34.68 billion as at March 8, 2012.

The decline in the reserves has been attributed by analysts, to withdrawals by the federal government to cover up for the revenue shortfall in budgetary distributions to the three tiers of government.

Nigeria's revenue from oil exports dropped in January due to production outages, leading to a withdrawal from the excess crude account to keep distributions steady when crude oil revenues fall.

In the corresponding period of last year, the country's reserve was \$33.24 billion.

Man Attempts Suicide, Says Atiku Owes Him N15m

FROM FRONT PAGE

300 meters high, in protest over alleged N15 million owed him by former vice president Abubakar Atiku.

According to an eyewitness, Inuwa first approached the court registry staff, saying he wanted to file a suit to recover N15 million debt from Atiku. He was told to go to Yola for issue of jurisdiction.

Not satisfied with the explanation, Inuwa demanded to see the chief judge, Justice Ibrahim Auta. Again he was told that he could only see the chief judge with his lawyer.

Inuwa, aged about 50, who appeared to have made up his mind from home, came down from the third floor of the court's building and headed for the mast. On a document recovered from him by the court's security operatives, which they prevented journalists from going through, was displayed, "I will not come down until the federal government and Nigerians come into this matter".

On climbing the mast, Inuwa was busy making calls with his handset. He insisted he won't come down until either Atiku or the inspector general of police come before the mast.

At first, the area commander of the police, Mr. Sunday Odunkoya, scolded him and even threatened to use force to bring him down, to no avail.

The police force called for the services of the NEMA accident response vehicle, Fire Service and hospital ambulances with an intention to climb the mast and force him down.

Inuwa remained defiant until CSP A.A. Baba, an officer from Criminal Investigation Bureau of the PCT police command came to



the rescue.

Baba, who spoke in Hausa language, displayed a document which he used to persuade Inuwa, saying it was an undertaking obtained by the IGP from Atiku to pay him the N15 million debt.

Inuwa who climbed the mast at about 12.30pm climbed down at 3.57pm.

The police public relations officer, Jimoh Mashood, told journalists after Inuwa was driven away in a Hilux van numbered NPP 21288 that the circumstance which led to Inuwa's suicide attempt would be thoroughly investigated.

Meanwhile, Atiku reacted through his media aide, Mallam Garba Shehu, saying Inuwa should be examined for psychiatric disorder because his principal is not in any way indebted to him.

In a short release he posted to journalists' mail boxes, Shehu said, "We honestly suspect that this man is mental; if there is one Nigerian who pays all his bills, that person is Atiku Abubakar. If the idea of this pole climber is to get N15million from the Turaki, this certainly is not the best way to go about it.

"Were it left to me, I would say that the man should simply be ignored. He will climb down when he gets tired of staying up there."

LEADERSHIP

Wednesday
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THE MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

Kano Emir Commends Kwankwaso Over New Cities

BY SULEIMAN RAMAT, Kano

The Emir of Kano, Alhaji (Dr) Ado Bayero, has commended Kano State governor, Engi. Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, for the establishment of new cities: Kwankwassiyya, Amna and Turnafi in the state.

The royal father spoke when the

state commissioner of land and physical planning, Surveyor Muhammadu Nedu Yahaya, paid him a courtesy visit in his palace.

Emir Bayero observed that the es-

tablishment of the new cities was another milestone in the history of the state and would go a long way in decongesting the city of Kano.

The Emir said that Kano, one of

the fastest-growing cities in Nigeria, needs to be expanded to accommodate more people and provide

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World Bank Presidency: Job Creation Tops Okonjo-Iweala's Priority

TODAY'S BUSINESS IDEA

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SALES THE USEFULNESS OF "GATEKEEPERS"

We'll Overcome Boko Haram By June — Jonathan

- Abul Qaqa's father killed in Maiduguri
- German's kidnap: SSS arrests 5 al-Qaeda suspects in Kano



President Jonathan (arrow) and other world leaders during the Security Summit in South Korea, yesterday.

CJN, NBA Okay Death Penalty

BY AHURAKA ISAH, Abuja

The chief justice of Nigeria (CJN), Dahiru Musdapher, yesterday said that death penalty as punishment for capital offences remains Nigerian law until the National Assembly amends the law governing the nation's criminal

justice system.

The CJN, who stated this yesterday at a one-day programme organized by a group called 'Lawyers without Borders, France', in Abuja yesterday, maintained that it is not the responsibility of the judiciary to abolish death sentence in the Nige-

rian laws, but the work of the legislature.

The Lawyers without Borders, France and the European Union (EU), which have been going from one country to the other canvassing for the abolition of death penalty, were in Abuja yesterday to sensitize

Customs Stops Registration Of Smuggled Vehicles > Page 5

Christian Youths Visit JNI Headquarters, Pledge End To Violence In The North > Page 6

We'll Overcome Boko Haram By June — Jonathan

Abul Qaqa's father killed in Maiduguri

German's kidnap: SSS arrests 5 al-Qaeda suspects in Kano

BY GEORGE AGDA AND EZRA UIOMA, Abuja

By the middle of this year, the federal government and its security forces will have control over the security challenges posed by Boko Haram, President Goodluck Jonathan stated yesterday.

In an interview with the *Yonhap*, the official news agency of South Korea, in Seoul, Jonathan said that, at present, his government has reasonable control over the activities of the religious group, as their attacks are only being perpetrated in some parts of the country.

"In terms of security challenges, in some parts of country we have terrorist attacks. But it doesn't affect the whole country. We are in reasonable control. We have belief that, by the middle of this year, in terms of security of individuals, we will have control. (The danger) is limited to some parts of the country. It doesn't extend to other parts of country," he said.

Jonathan, who arrived in Seoul on Sunday to attend the Two-

submit together with representatives from 52 other nations and four international organisations discussed how to prevent terrorists from getting hold of nuclear weapons and ensuring atomic safety. The Nigerian leader also asked South Korean businesses to expand their investments in building Nigeria's infrastructure for the energy and telecommunication sectors in particular.

Asked how he has been able to address issues of political stability which is important for foreign investors, the Nigerian president blamed investor-related problem on past military governments.

He said: "There is one key area that I want to emphasise. Nigeria is a very, very green area for investors. Before this time, during the military rule, you didn't know who was the next president. When the new government comes, there is a new policy and those policies are not attractive to investors. Basically from 1999 to date, we have established democratic government.

"I am the president. Before I took

over, I was vice-president. The president was very ill and people thought there would be military intervention. Today, we have conducted election. Politically, we are stable. For investors, Nigeria has strong law and media. No president can just change a law that can affect investors. Especially, we encourage investors."

"Nigeria is a country with lots of natural resources. South Korea, on the other hand, is industrialised. So, if the two countries commit together, they can really enhance development. As Africa's number one oil-producing country."

Meanwhile, suspected members of Boko Haram in Maiduguri, Borno State have reportedly killed the biological father of Boko Haram spokesperson "Abul Qaqa". Alhaji Abdullahi Jimoh, a former Deputy Comptroller of Nigerian Prison Service was killed by suspected members of Boko Haram.

A security source told *SaharaReporters* that Jimoh was killed with a friend in front of his home at the back of Railway Quarters in Maiduguri late Monday night, but it was

yesterday that it became clearer that he was the father of Abul Qaqa, the detained spokesperson of the sect whom the SSS and Nigerian Army captured in Kaduna recently.

The source said that the father has been out of Maiduguri city for some time and just returned to the troubled town recently. The identity of the second person killed with Jimoh is still unknown, while Boko Haram is yet to claim responsibility for the killings.

In a related development, five al-Qaeda suspects linked to North Africa have been arrested in Kano by men of the State Security Services (SSS) over the kidnapping of a German engineer, Edgar Raupach, in January.

LEADERSHIP gathered that four of the al-Qaeda suspects, including a Mauritanian, were arrested last Thursday in a raid on a supermarket owned by the Mauritanian in the city of Kano while the fifth suspect was arrested in a separate raid.

A source within the security service was quoted as saying that guns and a laptop, containing al-Qaeda

documents, were recovered in the supermarket raid.

Raupach was kidnapped on the outskirts of Kano in January. Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb said last week that it was holding the German while a private news agency in Mauritania said the group wanted to swap him for a jailed Muslim woman.

We killed Boko Haram Commander — JTF

Meanwhile, the Nigerian military Joint Task Force (JTF) has claimed that it has killed a senior commander of the Boko Haram in Maiduguri.

JTF spokesperson, Lt. Col. Sagir Musa made the claim in a statement released in Maiduguri.

He said "Following a tip-off, a special operation was conducted on Tuesday in Maiduguri, which led to the arrest of a notorious commander of Boko Haram who was involved in recent attacks in Maiduguri." The statement added that the Boko Haram top shot "was arrested with his gang members in Jajeri area of the city."

Musa also claimed that the group's commander and his gang attempted to escape shortly as they were being moved to a detention facility for questioning. He said, "Our men had no choice but to shoot them and they bled to death before they were taken to the hospital."

CJN, NBA Okay Death Penalty

FROM FRONT PAGE

the public and criminal justice system administrators about their views on the matter.

The Israeli ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Moshe Ram, had on March 15, 2012, said that barely two years after the creation of his country in 1948, it abolished the death penalty from its criminal jurisprudence.

Mr Moshe, who said this when he paid a courtesy call on the director-general of the Nigerian Law School in Abuja, Dr Tahir Maman, stated that his country has observed the removal of death penalty from their penal laws, to the extent that they don't even execute a convicted suicide bomber.

But the CJN, who was represented by his special assistant, Hadiza Sontali Sa'eed, insisted that the constitution specifically provides for the death penalty in section 33 (1). Section 33 (1) provides that "every person has a right to life, and no one shall be deprived intentionally of his life, save in execution of the sentence of a court in respect of a criminal offence of which he has been found guilty in Nigeria."

The Supreme Court has, in a plethora of cases, upheld the constitutionality of death sentence in Nigeria.

Similarly, the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) has described as premature the call for the abolition of death penalty in the country.

Speaking at the event, the NBA president, Joseph Dau who (SAN), told the organisers that the call is premature and that what is needed is institutional advocacy on issues of criminal justice system.

"What is important is whether our justice system, particularly the criminal justice, is matured enough

for us to abolish death penalty. We must concentrate on or find a way of fine-tuning, a criminal justice system. We need much enlightenment rather than to begin to think of abolition of death penalty in our criminal justice sector," Daudu added.

Meanwhile, the attorney-general of the federation (AGF) and minister of justice, Mohammed Bello Adoke (SAN), said he could not take a position on whether death penalty should be abolished or not. He was supported by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

The AGF, who was represented at the event by an assistant director in the justice ministry, Chidima Ukelonu, emphasised that death penalty is a constitutional matter but said that the judiciary has been reluctant in its application.

He said "Therefore, we cannot say it is right or wrong. We look forward to receiving the report of this conference with a view that it will help reshape our criminal justice system. I have already put a justice reform committee, and the result of this conference will be of great assistance to us," he stated.

Lawyers without Borders are strongly against the death penalty and have been going from one country to the other canvassing its abolition.

They vowed to support lawyers handling cases of people who are either on death row or faced with the death sentence.

The vice-president of the Nigeria Project, Ivan Panefi, said that though Nigeria is one of the major countries in Africa where death penalty is still enforced and legally authorized, a suspension on the execution of death sentences was imposed in 2004.

Customs Stops Registration Of Smuggled Vehicles

BY JULIET ALOHAN, Owerri

The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) has concluded plans to make it impossible for smuggled vehicles to be registered in the country.

This, according to the Service, is part of efforts to put an end to the smuggling of vehicles into the country.

Disclosing this yesterday in his presentation entitled "Single Window For e-trade In Nigeria", superintendent of customs Fateh Fateh said the Service was in the process of linking with the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) to enable it lift data of imported vehicles directly from Customs.

He explained that importers would no longer have to go with their import papers to the FRSC for registration as data on all imported vehicles would be lifted directly from Customs by FRSC.

"Vehicles smuggled in are uncustomed; under no circumstances should they be registered. When you import legally you get a duty certificate. With that you can register your vehicle. We want to make it difficult now for people with unregistered vehicles

to register them," Fateh said.

This measure, he noted, will help to check smuggling and also address insecurity. "If you

bring in a vehicle through the bush, no one knows what is inside. That can pose a security challenge. So we are trying to make it impossible for registering such vehicles," he added.

He informed that, with the transformation going on at the NCS, only taxpayers with an identified number by the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) can now conduct business with the Service.

He added that the ASYCUDA system would be phased out when the Service fully migrates to the single window platform by January 2013.

Kano Emir Commends Kwankwaso Over New Cities

FROM FRONT PAGE

jobs and other business opportunities as well as solve the problem of overstretched infrastructure for the overall development of the state.

He urged the people of the state to support the administration of Governor Kwankwaso in its desire and readiness to transform Kano into a modern city.

Earlier in his remarks, Surveyor Yahaya told the Emir that the state government had initiated the project to modernize the state in terms of physical development.

The commissioner explained that Kwankwaso planned to build the three new cities of Kwankwaso, Amana and Tumfafi this year, pointing that over N8 billion had been earmarked for the provision of infrastructure to the cities.

The state government has since flagged off the construction of three model cities under a public-private partnership arrangement to decongest the state metropolis.

During the flag-off of the project, Kwankwaso said the new cities would help to decongest Kano.

The governor had said: "I promise you that, within the next 16 months, 700 plots of land here in Umarawa would be transformed into a model city with state-of-the-art facilities such as recreation centres, parks and gardens, hospitals, hotels, governor's lodge, drainage, electricity and road network."



Comptroller-General of Nigeria Customs Service Alhaji Dikko I tede

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THE MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

I'm Not Involved In Subsidy Fraud — Dankwambo



Dankwambo

BY YA'U WAZINI, Gombe AND STANLEY NKWOCHA, Abuja

Governor Ibrahim Hassan Dank-

wambo of Gombe State has denied involvement in the fuel subsidy fraud as alleged by the Farouk Lawan-led House of Representatives committee

in its report submitted to the House. The governor made the denial yes-

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TODAY'S BUSINESS IDEA

SALES
BRING BUY DO SO CONVINCINGLY

No Going Back On N1trn Revenue Target — Customs Boss > Page 78

FG Opens Secret Detention Centre For Boko Haram

Why we raised security alert — White House • Jonathan seeks Germany's assistance

BY CHIKA OTUCHIKERE, GEORGE AGBA, NAOMI ADAMU, Abuja AND ABIODUN OLUWAROTIMI, New York

Nigeria is opening a secret detention centre to hold and interrogate suspected high-level members of the Boko Haram sect allegedly responsi-

ble for several suicide bomb attacks which has resulted in the death of hundreds of people with thousands more injured.

LEADERSHIP learnt that this may not be unconnected with the recent jail breaks in some conventional prisons where members of the sect

had escaped. Associated Press (AP) also reports that a security official confirmed the development to it, saying that the secret detention centre would forestall future jail breaks by the sect.

Incidents of jail breaks which reportedly rattled the nation's security

agencies were in the Kogi, Bauchi and Suleja prisons where some Boko Haram members were detained.

The detention centre has raised concern about its possible use for torture and illegal detention. This concern is against the backdrop of allegations that the nation's securi-

ty agencies were notorious for human rights abuses. It is averred that the centre would enable the security agencies to be more coordinated in their fight against the sect.

According to the security official

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Mark, Gana, Others Seek Devolution Of Power

Canvass good governance, true democracy

BY FRED ITUA, Abuja

Senate president David Mark, former minister of information Prof. Jerry Gana and other northern leaders under the aegis of Middle Belt Leaders have joined the list of eminent Nigerians calling on the federal government to decentralise power and make the component units more independent. Members of a group known as Middle Belt Leaders, who gathered in Abuja yesterday, decried the concentration of political power at the centre.

In his welcome address, Prof. Gana said the essence of democracy is to provide leadership that will produce good dividends to the people.



R-L: Emir of Zazzau Alhaji Shehu Idris, minister of education Professor Ruqayyatu Ahmed Rufa'i, secretary to the Kaduna State government Alhaji Samaila Lawal Yakawada and the director-general of the National Teachers Institute (NTI), Dr. Aminu Ladan Sharehu at the resuscitation of technical teacher training and distribution of Field Activity Vehicles to the 14 participating universities and institutions at NTI headquarters in Kaduna, yesterday

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WAEC Best Student: I Expected Nothing Less From Tolulope — Mother > Page 6

Pension Scam: FG Suspends Perm Sec, Director, 3 Others > Page 6

LIVING TO BE 100 One health tip daily

A Garlic Clove a Day

The delicious ingredient that spices up Italian food does a lot more than wet your appetite. Studies indicate that allicin, the active ingredient in garlic, can prevent atherosclerosis and coronary blockage, lower cholesterol, reduce blood clot formation, stimulate the pituitary, regulate blood sugar, and prevent cancer. As an antibacterial, it is often used to treat minor infections. To balance out its pungency, eat some breath-freshening parsley.

I'm Not Involved In Subsidy Fraud — Dankwambo

FROM FRONT PAGE

terday while signing the Gombe State Fiscal Responsibility Law at Government House.

The governor urged the people of Gombe State not to be disturbed by the publication. He said: "I have never been involved in fraud throughout my reign as accountant-general of the federation."

The House of Representatives committee has, in a report, blamed the Office of the AGF during his reign for authorising the subsidy payment of N999 million 128 times within 24 hours.

He said the Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation is not responsible for the payment of subsidy and explained further that he has enquired and found out that the statement used by the committee was that of the PPPRA which the AGF has no control over.

"The AGF only pays one-line payment from the source, either the consolidated revenue account or the domestic excess crude which is the source of the payment into that account to be monitored and to be paid by the PPRA," he said.

He emphasised that, having served as AGOF from 1999, he had done his best to ensure that he demonstrated accountability and transparency in the way he operated. He had not and will never be involved in a fraud, he said.

"Don't forget Dankwambo is now a politician, so there can be many factors that will be added to ridicule Gombe State's name, but be clear in your mind that, Dankwambo had never committed and will never be involved in a fraud."

The governor promised to get to the root of the matter in order to clear his name from the wrong misconception created by the report.

Gombe Youths Decry Dankwambo's

LEADERSHIP Group Launches Hausa Website Today

In its quest to further bring the news to its teeming readership as events unfold, LEADERSHIP Group of newspapers is launching a website dedicated to readers of LEADERSHIP Hausa from today, April 20, 2012. Please log on to hausaleadership.ng



Indictment

Meanwhile, a group, Gombe Youth for Development, has condemned the House of Representatives panel's report which alleged that the governor of Gombe State, while working as accountant-general of the federation, was culpable in the payment of undue subsidy funds.

Secretary-general of the group, Mohammed Abubakar, in a statement made available in Abuja, said it was unfortunate that the Farouk Lawan committee listed the governor amongst those to be blamed for the abuse of subsidy even when it never deemed it proper to invite the governor or call for his brief during its sittings.

"As far as the truth is concerned, the allegations against the governor remain unfounded and baseless since the Office of the Accountant-general is known not to associate itself with payment transaction especially as it relates to the issuance of cheques as suggested in the subsidy payments.

"It is baffling that the House of Representatives could come out with such a report even at the expense of highly exalted Nigerians who have served the country meritoriously. Of particular interest to us is how the committee arrived at its conclusions even when it is public knowledge that the committee never investigated the office of the AGF or invited Dankwambo as the immediate past holder of that office to come and defend issues it had with his then office," the group stated. "We quickly ask the Farouk Lawan committee to immediately tender an unreserved apology to His Excellency and immediately do a review of its report with a view to making amends where it had gone wrong or overlooked. We believe that the committee has erred and attempted to cast aspersions on the governor's integrity unduly. While we do not condone the sleaze in the oil sector, it is equally important that all persons given fair hearing before pronouncements such as that made on the governor is arrived at."

Mark, Gana, Others Seek Devolution Of Power

FROM FRONT PAGE

"A true federal structure will serve Nigeria better. States or regional governments will have the willpower to operate on their own rather than over-concentration of power at the centre," Gana stated.

"Federating units in the country must have the freedom and will to look within and generate revenue internally. In a federal system, the centre depends on the federating states and not the other way around."

The leaders unanimously called on the National Assembly to fast-track the review of the constitution to address the grey areas and pave way for a true democratic system.

FG Opens Secret Detention Centre For Boko Haram

FROM FRONT PAGE

who said he was directly involved in the project but was not authorized to speak with journalists, the prison is in Lagos, far from the north where the sect has unleashed most of its attacks. He said "all suspects arrested will be taken to the centre and would be interrogated by a security group". He declined to say exactly where it is or how many inmates it can hold. He disclosed that the authorities are arranging to transport suspects already in their hands to Lagos State.

The security official also revealed that the detention centre was created at the orders of the national security adviser, Gen. Andrew Owoye Azazi. This could not be confirmed by Azazi as he could not be contacted on telephone.

Director-general of the State Security Service (SSS) Mr. Ekpeyong Ita was said to have declined to comment when he was contacted about the detention centre.

However, SSS spokeswoman Marilyn Ogar was said to have contacted the AP reporter, saying that anyone with information about the purported detention centre should go to the courts instead of talking to journalists. She reportedly refused to confirm or deny the centre's existence.

"Whatever we do, we're running a democratic system that respects the rule of law," the spokeswoman reportedly told the journalist.

It could not be confirmed whether any foreign governments have offered Nigeria advice or assistance in opening the detention centre. U.S. ambassador to Nigeria Terence P. McCulley, speaking to journalists recently, said the U.S. was "working with the Nigerian government to help them develop a counter-terrorism strategy that includes perhaps a centre even to better coordinate information and intelligence that they receive".

Statements credited to diplomats and military officials say the sect has links with two other al-Qaeda-aligned terrorist groups in Africa. Members of

the sect were also reportedly spotted in northern Mali which Tuareg rebels seized control of over the past month.

Some of the suspected sect members have been allegedly arrested and locked up for months without being charged. Security officials have also been accused of routinely arresting women and children related to suspected Boko Haram members in attempts to draw them out. Amnesty International has alleged that some Boko Haram suspects have been "subject to enforced disappearances".

Reacting to the secret detention centre, Amnesty International said in a statement yesterday, "Attacks by armed groups do not absolve the Nigerian government of the responsibility to conduct security operations in a manner that complies with national and international law. Widespread unlawful, incommunicado detention must cease immediately," the group said.

Why we raised security alert

— White House

Meanwhile, the United States, which reportedly issued a security alert to its citizens on Wednesday, has stated that the alert was raised as a result of obligations of the Embassy to always inform US citizens of planned attacks.

While briefing White House correspondents in Washington DC, President Barack Obama's spokesman, Mr. Mark Toner, said that the United States Embassy in Abuja has the rights to continue informing the citizens of the United States that live in Nigeria any time there is information regarding a planned terror attack.

"We did receive information that Boko Haram may be planning attacks in Abuja, Nigeria. I mean hotels frequently visited by Westerners. We don't have any additional information regarding the timing of these attacks. But as you know, in accordance with the Department's no double standard policy, when we deem a threat to any U.S. citizen, we do issue these kinds of emergency messages," Toner said.

When asked if the United States authorities informed the Nigerian government before raising the terror alarm on Wednesday, the White House spokesman said that he did not know that the government of his country would be obliged to do so, saying "I don't know if we did in this case."

The federal government had warned foreign envoys, embassies and organisations in the country to desist from the habit of raising the alarm and making security statements that are capable of creating panic.

Jonathan seeks Germany's assistance

President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday in faraway Germany implored the government of that country to help

Haram.

Jonathan sought the assistance at a media briefing with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin.

Speaking during the bilateral talks between both leaders at the German Chancellery in the German capital, Jonathan also assured investors that government was putting all necessary measures in place to guarantee their investments and returns for such investments.

He said, "As a nation, we have security challenges because most investors talk about security. At present, we have the local group codenamed Boko Haram. From publications on this group, it paints a very gloomy picture as if the whole country is in tatters.

"This group operate in some states in the north-eastern part of the country but go into other states from time to time. But what I can assure the global community, especially our investors from Germany, is that government is working very hard to bring it under control."

The president said that Nigeria would have to deploy superior technology to counter the plans of the sect because the manner of operation of the group was different from other criminal activities.

He said, "The area we expect our development partners, especially countries like Germany, to help is in terms of our security architecture, training and providing us with some modern equipment. You have to fight terrorists with technology because terrorists do not need to come with a rifle and you confront them one on one. They will surprise you, they will not come to engage you except to defend themselves occasionally.

"So, you must have superior technology to monitor them and know how you can relate with them. And these are the areas we believe that countries like Germany and others and even the United Nations (UN) can assist us."

Assuring Jonathan of her country's resolve to work with the Nigerian government to bring the situation under control, the German Chancellor said Germany was in agreement with Nigeria on the dangers posed by members of the group to Nigeria and its reputation outside the country.

Merkel said the newly established bilateral commission between Germany and Nigeria should be able to discuss the issue with the aim of coming up with greater details of the areas where Nigeria may need help.

"But I think what is most important is the resolve of the Nigerian government to deal with such a group and to remain on top of the situation and protect the peace-loving people of Nigeria who suffer most from such attacks. Wherever we can be helpful, be it in training, be it in logistics, we will cer-

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THE MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

Nigeria To Import Fuel From Niger Republic

BY JULIET ALOHAN, Abuja

Nigeria may soon start importing fuel from the Republic of Niger as the latter plans to evacuate its excess petroleum products.

Niger Republic's minister of petroleum, Mr. Fournakoye Gado, is

in the country to sign the African Petroleum Producers' Association (APPA) Statute, which will make Niger become a bonafide member

of the association.

Gado told journalists during the signing ceremony yesterday in Abuja that Niger's present re-

fining capacity is 20,000 barrels of oil per day, out of which the coun-

TODAY'S BUSINESS IDEA

• BUSINESS SKILLS
GO AGAINST THE FLOW

PAN Unveils Changan Alsvin Sedan At Lagos Fair > Page 11

Under Attack

Media under siege as Boko Haram bombs *ThisDay*, *Sun*, *The Moment*

- 9 feared dead
- Residents nab bomber in Kaduna
- The media won't bow - NPAN
- Jonathan, Obama condemn attack



Different scenes from the bomb blasts in Abuja and Kaduna...yesterday. PHOTOS BY CHRIS DANLADI AND MIDAT JOSEPH

South-South Summit Seeks Regional Infrastructure For Development > Page 13

Explosion Rocks Gombe State University > Page 48

LIVING TO BE 100 One health tip daily

Sow Your Oats!

Oat bran, the outer coating of oats, contains high concentrations of soluble fibers, which help trap cholesterol and move it quickly through the intestines. Unfortunately, most people eat their oats in the refined form, which contains very little of the precious bran that contains beta-glucan and saponins. Whole oats are also rich in the antioxidants that stop cholesterol oxidation, the process that enables it to stick to artery walls.

More benefits: oats prevent colon cancer by binding toxic minerals and acids; they balance the body's blood sugar levels by slowing the absorption of carbohydrates; and the saponins in oats increase production of natural "killer cells," a critical part of the body's immune surveillance system. Try substituting a warm bowl of whole oats for your cold cereal in the morning. Your body will thank you for years.

Nigeria To Import Fuel From Niger Republic

FROM FRONT PAGE

try can only consume 7,000 barrels, an equivalent of 1.113million litres of fuel, while the excess of 13,000 barrels, an equivalent of 2.067million litres of fuel would be exported to Nigeria.

The minister who spoke through an interpreter said, "We currently refine 20,000bpd and we consume only 7,000 barrels leaving an excess of 13,000 barrels. We hope to evacuate the excess to Nigeria. That is the major reason we are here.

He said the country in 2011 signed a contract for the commercialisation of crude production, adding that a feasibility study has been concluded to commence oil exportation which would boost its crude production from the current 20,000bpd to 60,000bpd. He adding, however, that Niger presently does not have any specific target country for its crude export, but said it would be done according to international standard.

The minister who was accompanied to the event by Niger's ambassador to Nigeria, H.E Mansourmanan H.D, explained that his country resolved to join APPA, despite being a small oil producing nation, in order to tap into the experience of other member countries and ensure that her oil prospecting is a source of blessing to the country and not a resource curse, based on lessons learnt from other countries.

While noting that the association's objective will impact on the country's technical know-how and help build local capacity, Gado said his country will ensure that oil proceed is used to accelerate development. He said the country



Alison-Madueke

be routed through Cameroon in 2013, after which exportation will commence in 2014 or 2015.

The permanent secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum, Engr. Goni I. Sheikh, who represented the minister of petroleum, Mrs. Diezani Alison-Madueke, while welcoming Niger to the association, noted that signing the APPA Statute was mandatory for all member countries who wish to benefit fully from oil and gas exploration through the association's support.

He said the objectives of the association include the promotion of cooperation among member countries in hydrocarbon exploration, promotion of technical assistance, coordination of marketing policies and strategies as well as studying ways of providing assistance to the oil importing African countries to meet their energy requirement.

While expressing optimism that the opportunity will further strengthen the bilateral relationship between Nigeria and Niger Republic, Sheikh added that the association operates a fund which is dedicated to financing studies and projects in the hydrocarbon

Media Under Siege As Boko Haram Bombs *ThisDay*, *Sun*, *The Moment*

BY MIDAT JOSEPH, ISAIAH BENJAMIN, USMAN AHMED, Kaduna, GEORGE AGBA, CHIKA OTUCHIKERE, PEMBI STEPHEN-DAVID, RUTH TENE, OMOTOLA OLORUNTOBI, PATIENCE OBHAFUOSO, NANNA SELKUR, KEHINDE AJOBIEWE, ZOE ATTAT, BODE GBADEBO, Abuja AND ABIODUN OLUWAROTIMI, New York

For the first time since it began a series of deadly bomb attacks, the **Boko Haram** sect yesterday turned its attention to the media. It unleashed a string of coordinated attacks on **three media houses** in Abuja and Kaduna, which were hit almost simultaneously by the blasts.

The three media houses attacked by the bombers were the Abuja office of **ThisDay Newspaper**, and then **The Sun** and **The Moment** offices in Kaduna which were hit almost simultaneously by the blasts.

Hardest hit was **ThisDay** whose office in **Jabi, Abuja**, was almost brought down by the impact of the blast that swept through the area at about 11:03am.

Witnesses said that a **suicide bomber** forced his way through the back gate of the Jabi office of the media empire and rammed his black Isuzu Jeep into the main building housing the printing press and other facilities. Everything went up in flames, as the bomb went off.

The impact of the blast also destroyed nearby commercial and residential buildings and caused a major apprehension and confusion around the Jabi Motor Park, which is a major exit and landing point for commuters in the Federal Capital Territory. The park is directly opposite the attacked **ThisDay** building.

As the bomb went off, motorists, traders and passengers at the park as well as customers of the media house scamped for safety, especially as rumours spread that another blast was imminent with the sighting of a Toyota SUV similar to the one used by the bomber, left in front of the newspaper house.

Initially, **journalists** were barred from the scene of the blast by the combined team of riot policemen,

anti-bomb disposal men and soldiers, who cordoned off the area right from Jabi junction.

ThisDay has, in a statement released yesterday, claimed that five people died during the incident, saying that the victims comprised the bomber, its security official and three passers-by.

A NEMA official in Kaduna, who sought anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the event, confided in our correspondents that four people died during the attack in Kaduna.

The evacuation and rescue operations were shielded from the press and the dead and injured taken away before journalists were allowed into the premises.

However, the group executive director of **ThisDay**, Ireogbu Israel, confirmed that the company's security and support staff were mostly affected by the blast. Israel put the number of those killed at three and the wounded at six.

He said, "We have been able to identify some of the dead with their uniforms and have taken them to the mortuary. Those injured have also been taken to the hospital."

The FCT police commissioner, Mr. Ade Sinaba, and the comptroller-general of the Federal Fire Service visited the scene of the blast and supervised the evacuation of the dead and the wounded.

El-Rufa'i commiserates with *ThisDay*

Former FCT minister Mallam Nasiru el-Rufa'i, who visited the scene of the blast, said he went there as a member of the newspaper's editorial board to see things for himself.

The former minister said, "Well, I came in as a member of the editorial board; I am very sad. I can only say 'Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilahi Rajiun', meaning 'From God we came and to Him we shall return. He left immediately after uttering those words.

We can't be intimidated - NPAN

Meanwhile, the Newspaper Proprietors' Association of Nigeria

(NPAN) said yesterday that its members would not be cowed by the attack on **media organisations** in Abuja and Kaduna.

In a statement signed by its general secretary, Comfort Obi, the association condemned the attack and described it as not only insensitive, barbaric and retrogressive but also an unwarranted attack on free press in the country.

The statement reads in part, "The NPAN finds it difficult to understand why the sect would make the media a target, when the media is only performing its social and constitutional duty of reporting events as they unfold. It is this call to duty that explains why **members of the sect** always have a space in the media when its spokesperson(s) call in to grant interviews, or press statements. Their views are usually well reported.

"However, if the current attack is to intimidate **the press**, we hasten to say that we shall neither be cowed nor intimidated as we shall continue to discharge our professional responsibilities without fear or favour.

"We hasten to task the government, again, on the need to guarantee the security of lives and property. It does seem that nowhere is safe."

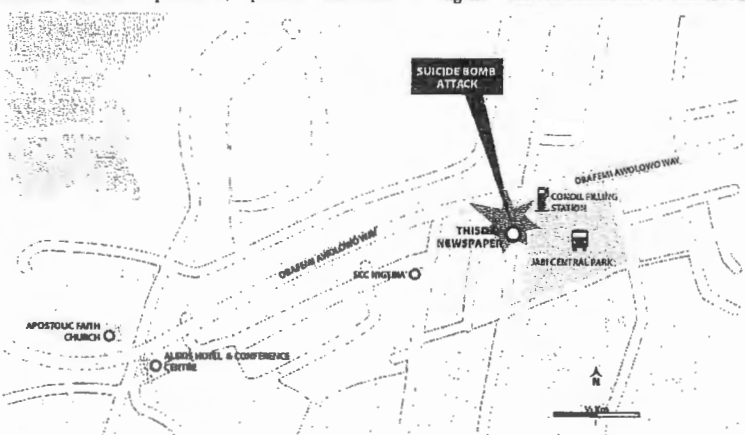
There had been earlier warnings by the **Boko Haram** sect of its intent to launch an onslaught on the Nigerian media.

Jonathan, Obama condemn attacks

President Goodluck Jonathan also condemned the attack on the media, asking them not to succumb to the whims of those who were trying to stop them from carrying out their campaign for peace, justice and equity.

In a statement by his special adviser on media and publicity, the president described the attack as ignoble, misguided, horrendous and wicked but assured, as usual, that his government was committed to the protection of lives and proper-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 6



Media Under Siege As Boko Haram Bombs ThisDay, Sun, The Moment

FROM PAGES 1 AND 2

ty in the country.

The statement reads in part: "President Jonathan reaffirmed the commitment of the federal government to continue to uphold the constitutional right to freedom of expression in general and of press freedom in particular, pledging that criminal elements bent on instilling fear in the minds of Nigerians and foreigners will not succeed.

"The president urged media practitioners not to be dissuaded from carrying out their fearless campaign for peace, justice and equity as democracy cannot flourish without press freedom.

"President Jonathan commiserated with the bereaved families and other innocent victims of the explosions, and also prayed that Almighty God would grant them succour in their moment of grief and the souls of the departed, peaceful repose."

Also, United States President Barack Obama has condemned the attacks on *ThisDay*, *The Sun* and *The Moment* newspapers in Nigeria by Boko Haram and called for a comprehensive probe into the attacks.

In a press release made available to our correspondent yesterday night, the US leader said that: "we strongly condemn these attacks on the two offices of the newspaper *ThisDay*, both in Abuja and Kaduna. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the loved ones and those who were killed or injured. This is an attack not only on innocent people but on free speech itself in Nigeria, and we call for a full investigation in holding those responsible to account"

"We are continuing to look at Boko Haram in this context. We haven't made any decisions yet. Frankly, we're not in a position from here to evaluate responsibility. I think we will, obviously, offer any support to the Nigerians that they may require. But that said, we share the concerns about the threat that Boko Haram poses, and this is among the reasons that we cooperate so strongly with Nigeria in terms of not only security support but also political and economic support in the north so that the vulnerable populations in the north of Nigeria can't be sort of attracted and coerced by Boko Haram"

Also, the US Embassy in Abuja has warned U.S. citizens to take additional precautions while living in or visiting the Federal Republic of

Nigeria, stressing that they should maintain a high state of vigilance and personal security awareness, particularly in and around Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, near Nigerian government facilities, diplomatic missions, large gathering places, hotels, markets and malls, and places of worship.

Responding to the attack, the chairman and founder of *ThisDay*, Mr. Nduka Obaigbena, described the blast on the three media houses in Abuja and Kaduna as an attack on Nigerian journalism.

Obaigbena said, "Today, Nigerian journalism was attacked, but the truth will not be cowed."

Residents nab bomber in Kaduna

Meanwhile The State Security Service (SSS) has confirmed that five persons died in bomb blasts that rocked the some media houses in Abuja and Kaduna.

The SSS deputy director of public relations, Marilyn Ogar, in a statement yesterday (identified) one of the assailants of the blast in the *ThisDay* office in Kaduna as Umaru Mustapha of Maiduguri, Borno State.

Ogar also (disclosed) that (the bomber, who was overpowered by some gallant Nigerians, came in a cream Honda Accord (Academy) She said: "Mustapha and another man drove into R9, Kontagora Road, Ahmadu Bello Way in a cream-coloured Honda Accord (Academy), registration number AL 306 MKA, at about 11am. That address belongs to SOJ Global Communications and Investment Limited Plaza, and houses correspondents of *The Sun*, *ThisDay* and *The Moment* newspapers."

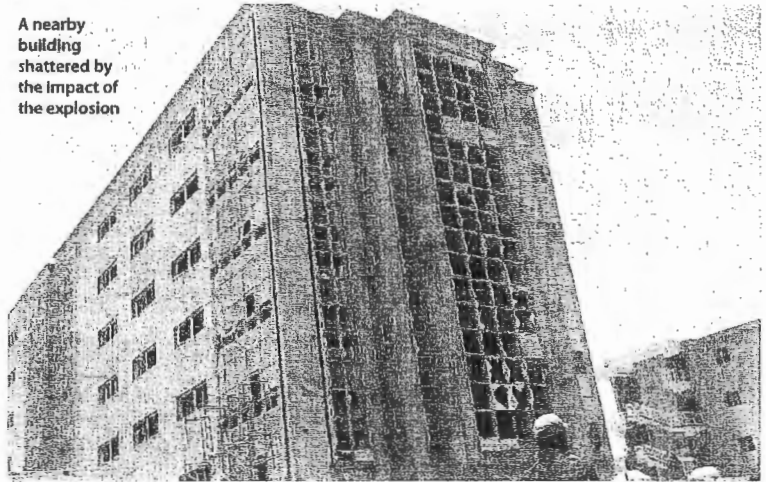
According to Ogar, Mustapha (slighted) with a container of improvised explosive device (IED).

"He was immediately challenged by two gallant Nigerians following which he threw the bomb at them and it detonated, killing them instantly. Subsequently, Mustapha pulled out a pistol and fired several shots in the air in an attempt to escape.

"He was however caught and subdued by brave members of the public who refused to be intimidated and handed him over to security forces. Nine persons were injured and are receiving treatment."

"At about the same time, at the premises of *ThisDay* newspaper in Abuja, another car, a dark green Isuzu jeep outfitted with bombs forced its way in, detonated and killed the

A nearby building shattered by the impact of the explosion



suicide bomber.

Ogar confirmed that two other persons were confirmed killed, while five persons were injured in the Abuja attack.

The SSS spokesman, who expressed hope that the attacks would not deter reportage of issues that affect Nigerians, applauded the gallantry and patriotism of the members of the public who risked their lives to save others.

Boko Haram claims responsibility, says more attacks on media coming

The Boko Haram sect has claimed responsibility for the suicide bombing that rocked the Kaduna and Abuja offices of *ThisDay*, saying that the Nigerian media should expect more suicide bombings from them.

It said it carried out the attack to sound a note of warning to media houses that it would no longer tolerate reports which misrepresent them in the media or blame them for attacks they know nothing about.

A spokesperson for the sect, Abul Qaqa, (told) an internet medium that his organisation was fed up with the deliberate misinformation being peddled about it in the Nigerian and foreign media.

Qaqa said: "We have repeatedly cautioned reporters and media houses to be professional and objective in their reports. This is a war between us and the government of Nigeria; unfortunately the media have not been objective and fair in their report of the ongoing war; they chose to take sides."

When asked why *ThisDay* appeared specifically chosen for the attack, Qaqa said that *ThisDay*'s "sins" are more grievous.

"It is not only *ThisDay* that has been engaged in negative media campaign, fictional stories and constantly promoting fake stories by the JTF to give an impression that they are making headway against us, yet there is no time the media investigated further as an objective and responsible bystander in this war.

"But the sins of *ThisDay* are more. They recently said our Imam executed me, which is false. Here I am speaking to you, I am alive and healthy."

The group's spokesman further warned of more attacks on the media.

"We have just started this new campaign against the media and we will not stop here, we will hit the media hard since they have refused to listen to our plea for them to be fair in their reportage," he said.

Qaqa also said his group would give further information on biases by the media.

"In the coming days, we will give details and instances where the media have not been fair to us and why we are going to attack them as well."

"But each time we say something it is either changed or downplayed. But when our (premy) says something even without logical proof, it is blown out of proportion."

"We have repeatedly asked some reporters to retract some stories or even give us the right of reply but none of these requests was given

to us."

He (identified) three instances where he claimed his group was deliberately misrepresented by the media. The first, according to him, was the rumour of his capture by the Nigerian intelligence agencies.

"Some reporters are aware that I am Abul Qaqa; they know my voice through our long interactions and they also know the role of Abu Darda who heads the enlightenment committee and sometimes facilitates interviews; yet they (media) go by the unsubstantiated view of government that Abul Qaqa is in custody and I am the new spokesman or number two," he said.

The second misrepresentation, according to Qaqa, was the reporting on the kidnappings of foreigners in the northern part of Nigeria.

"Another issue was the recent kidnappings in the North; we were clear with our position as a group during a teleconference with reporters but we were shocked the next day when newspaper headlines added a lot of things which I never said during that interview."

The third example, Qaqa said, is the mistranslation of the video the group posted recently.

"Another example is the recent video posted on YouTube by our Imam; I challenge every Nigerian to watch that video again. There is no place our Imam either said he will crush President Jonathan or issued an ultimatum to the government in Nigeria; but nearly all papers carried very wrong and mischievous headlines."

How Suicide Bomber Gained Access

BY CHUKA ODITTAH, Abuja

Investigation by LEADERSHIP yesterday revealed that the suicide bomber who devastated the *ThisDay* office in Abuja came under the pretext of placing an advert. The bomber, who came in a Isuzu Jeep, eyewitnesses said, first approached

back gate.

One of the security officials who spoke with LEADERSHIP after the incident said the suicide bomber insisted on being allowed to park his car inside the *THISDAY* building as, according to him, he was carrying large amount of cash which he intended to pay for the placement of an

Saddiq, an Ibra from Kogi State, was said to have attempted to persuade the bomber to leave his car outside. His mission however led to his death as the car bomber rammed him into the *THISDAY* back gate, while crashing his car into the building's generator house. Scores of security personnel and other staff who were injured

The attack damaged a substantial part of the building constructed by Julius Berger Ltd.

LEADERSHIP gathered that, prior to the attack, *ThisDay* had received intelligence alert, informing it of the possibility of an attack by a militant sect. The alert had informed the decision of the management of the paper

Hoodlums cart away valuables

Scores of hoodlums from across the area swiftly took advantage of the bomb blast to plunder the personal belongings of staff. Some journalists said their laptops, telephones and other valuables were looted by hoodlums who took advantage of

LEADERSHIP

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THE MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

We'll Come After You, EFCC Warns Civil Servants

BY PAUL DADA, Lagos

The chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Mt. Ibrahim Lamorde, has counselled public servants not to indulge in any form of corruption and economic crime.

at the 4th national retreat on ethics and transparency for civil servants in Lagos. "EFCC is using the forum provided by this retreat to serve notice to all public servants at all levels of government that we will come after you if you compromise your positions and engage in fraudulent or corrupt practices," the EFCC helmsman, who was represented by Dr. Jimmy Ino, his chief of staff, warned.

The three-day retreat with the theme "Credible and Transparent Conduct of Public Officers in Nigeria as key to National Transformation" was organised by the Office of the Accountant-General

of the Federation in conjunction with the Centre for Economic Research and Policy Development. "In those days if you wanted a job done efficiently, especially for the benefit of the citizenry, the Nigerian civil service could be trust-

TODAY'S BUSINESS IDEA

• PUBLIC RELATIONS BRINGING IN THE SCIENTISTS

CHAIRMAN, NORTHERN STATES CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, SAYS...

North Loses N25bn Daily To Boko Haram Insurgency

• Quit if you can't end sect's activities, Arewa youths tell northern govns

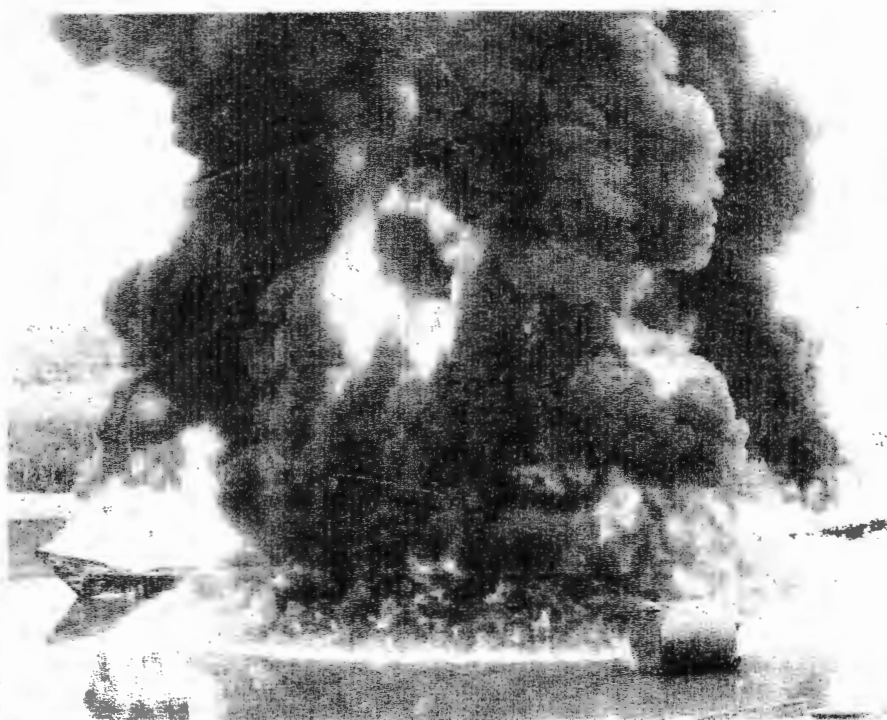
SUBSIDY PROBE

Indicted Persons Will Face Justice

— **Tambuwal**

BY HAMZAT BABA, LOKOJA

The speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Aminu Tambuwal, has assured that the House would pursue the implementation of the subsidy probe to its logical conclusion. Tambuwal, who gave the assurance while fielding questions from members at the Government House, Lokoja, yesterday, pointed out that



Loaded badges and boats used for local refining and bunkering of crude oil being destroyed during the Joint Military Task Force's raid on illegal refineries at the creek of the River Niger and boundaries between Anambra and Delta states on Tuesday. PHOTO

LIVING TO BE 100 One health tip daily

Secrets of the Evergreen!

In ancient times, Taoists living in the mountains of China observed that during snowy winters the only plants exhibiting vitality were evergreens such as pines. Through experimentation, they found a therapeutic use for every part of the pine tree: a physical and mental energy boost from pine needle tea and bark tea, antimicrobial properties in sap, and sustenance from pine nuts as a food. Since then, the pine has become a symbol of longevity in Chinese culture.

A potent antioxidant in pine called pycnogenol protects endothelial cells (which make up the lining of the blood vessels and heart) from free radical damage, serves as an anti-inflammatory, and preserves healthy skin structure.

We'll Come After You, EFCC Warns Civil Servants

FROM FRONT PAGE

ed to creditably carry out the job. Today, the reverse is the case," Lamorde said.

He said all that must change if the transformation agenda of President Goodluck Jonathan is to succeed. "To bring about the economic transformation of Nigeria, public servants must act ethically at all times in the discharge of their roles. No nation has ever developed or can sustain its development without a vibrant and credible public service," he said.

He regretted that recent developments in the country show that public servants have abandoned the pursuit of excellence on the altar of greed and corruption. "It is because some public servants failed to act creditably that poverty prevails in the land and millions of young men and women who are graduates continue to roam our streets in search of elusive jobs. The epileptic power supply, the near-total decay of infrastructures in the country from our roads, pipe-borne water, schools and hospitals - are all the consequence of the failure to act creditably," he stated.

Lamorde charged participants to come up with practical measures to reverse the ugly trend.

Also speaking at the event was Senator Omar Hambagda, who represented Senate President David Mark. He bemoaned the erosion of the country's value system. He said the country now values money and material things above integrity and hard work, warning that, if nothing concrete is done to restore our value system, the future of the younger generations was at risk.

Another speaker at the event was the head of service of the federation, Alhaji Isa Bello Sali, who was represented by Dr. M. Idris. He said the guiding principles of work ethics and values in the federal civil service include stewardship, trust, engagement, professionalism, accountability, leadership, selflessness, integrity, justice and fairness.

"I want to assure you that we will continue to place a very high premium on these virtues and will not condone apathy, lethargy and corruption as we set out to transform the service to meet the developmental agenda of government," he said.

Indicted Persons Will Face Justice — Tambuwal

FROM FRONT PAGE

the House was yet to receive any formal letter from the attorney-general of the federation suggesting that their probe is a mere investigation exercise.

He said that no one can stop the House from carrying out its oversight functions, adding that the matter cannot just go like others.

While noting that the House was constitutionally empowered to do what it has done, he stressed that when the situation

al means to handle the issue.

On his mission in the ancient town, the speaker said they were in Lokoja to rejoice with Governor Idris Wada, pointing out that although they would have come earlier to congratulate the governor immediately after the swearing-in, the delay was not deliberate.

He said Kogi is blessed with abundant mineral and human resources, and advised the governor to continue to consult widely in order to har-

North Loses N25bn Daily To Boko Haram Insurgency

BY ISAAC AIMURIE, EZRA UJOMA, RUTH TENE, Abuja; MIDAT JOSEPH AND ISAJAH BENJAMINI, Kaduna

Apart from human lives whose value cannot be stated in monetary terms, the northern region is losing no less than N25 billion on a daily basis to the activities of Boko Haram.

This disclosure was made by Alhaji Ahmad Rabiu, chairman of the Conference of Northern States Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture, in an exclusive chat with LEADERSHIP yesterday in Abuja.

According to Rabiu, who is also the president of the Kano Chamber of Commerce, businesses that used to thrive in the night hours do not exist anymore due to the palpable fear that pervades the northern states these days. Kano State, he said, is fast losing its status as the city of commerce. "What started in Maiduguri is fast catching up with all of the northern region and the business community is very worried," he lamented.

"We realised that when you have boxed people into a corner, they are not able to operate during the business hours of the night. At night, we don't do anything and most of the business activities of the day are also having their push in the night. Most supermarkets close at 6pm because of fear of security breach. More than 50 per cent of economic activities happen at night; they don't happen these days or they have been pushed to the lowest end; in a month, you are looking at a loss of about N700 billion," said Rabiu, adding, "now, the effect of these is, you are looking at all the components of loss - that activities have not taken place, capital has been eroded. As the situation of weakening the future revival is occasioned, chances of revival are becoming more unlikely as time goes on and chances of returning to the former situation were also threatened.

"So when you put all these things together you find that the loss is insurmountable, but we, in our estimation, going by certain indices, put the losses at N25 billion daily. And insecurity in Kano State is threatening businesses and sending away companies."

"Not too long ago - I think in 2008 - an agency of the United Nations put the figure of commercial motorcyclists

operating in Kano at two million. Given that the minimum return each of these cyclists make to the owners is N500 daily, it pre-supposes that, that sector alone is contributing, at minimum, between N1 bn - N2 bn daily. Yet, there are tens of such sectors; some even bringing more money to the economy. Now, they make far less because they must close by 6pm every day."

While commending the efforts of the Goodluck Jonathan administration at fixing the infrastructural problem, he said the governors of the northern states have a responsibility to tackle the security challenge in the region.

Quit if you can't end sect's activities, Arewa youths tell northern governors

A pan-northern youth movement, Arewa Youth Forum (AYF), yesterday told governors of the northern region to "leave the stage" if they cannot chart a road map on how an amicable resolution could be reached between members of the Boko Haram sect and the federal government.

The Forum, which specifically pointed fingers at the chairman of the Northern States Governors' Forum and governor of Niger State, Babangida Aliyu, stated that the activities of the Boko Haram sect has crippled the economy of the region under the very watchful eye of the governors.

Rising from an emergency meeting in Kaduna where crucial issues affecting the region and Nigeria in general were discussed, the AYF said "we would soon mobilize youths to pray for the peace and progress of the region", even as they appealed to all aggrieved groups in the region to embrace dialogue because, compared to other parts of the country, the north has continued to deteriorate due to the guerilla warfare in parts of the region that, for now, appear to have defied solution."

The national president of the AYF, Alhaji Gambo Ibrahim Gungu, said they read with mixed feelings remarks credited to the Niger state governor on how he was able to rid his state of the presence of terror groups, but, unfortunately, he deliberately or otherwise failed to pass on such a formula to his other colleagues in the region so

that peace would be entrenched.

The group lamented that since the crisis began and has continued unabated, hundreds had lost their lives while property of inestimable value have been destroyed, leaving the north so unattractive for local and foreign investments.

He described as sad the fact that even businessmen of northern extraction preferred to invest and establish businesses elsewhere instead of the north as was recently exemplified by Dangote, pointing out that in a situation where the governors under the leadership of Babangida Aliyu continued to watch helplessly as such a crisis situation continued to unfold in the region, the best thing is for Governor Aliyu to give way to a much more robust and proactive person who could pave the way for a genuine dialogue so that peace could reign in the region.

AYF's Gungu said: "Maiduguri is now a no-go area - nothing is going on there and nobody wants to go there because of the atmosphere of uncertainty. Kano is in the headlines on a daily basis and can be described as a theatre of guerilla warfare. In Yobe, even animals are not spared as over a hundred were recently ambushed and massacred. Kaduna is not free despite being fortified by all kinds of security. In the southern part of Kaduna, innocent persons have been killed by unknown gunmen. Plateau is now a case study for students of sectarian violence.

"And yet Governor Babangida Aliyu is there taking pride in what he could not accomplish while things are going on smoothly in other parts of the country. It's high time he allowed others with foresight to be at the helm of affairs in the Northern Governors' Forum because northerners and other Nigerians are tired of empty rhetoric laced with deceit and half truths."

The AYF also expressed sadness over alleged insensitivity on the part the leadership of the Northern Governors' Forum in leaving one of the surviving legacies of late Sardauna Ahmadu Bello, the New Nigerian newspaper, to be under lock and key for several months, saying the workers deserve to be treated like human beings and should not be allowed to die in abject poverty and misery.



is to run an all-inclusive, transparent and accountable government.

He pleaded with the speaker to facilitate the completion of some federal roads like the Obajana-Kabba-Egbe road, Bagana-Gutó bridge and the Ajaokuta steel company which, he pointed out, are very strategic to the development of the country.

He emphasised the need for the members of the National Assembly from the state to fully co-oper-

Tambuwal equally commended the efforts of Shehu Shagari administration in establishing the Ajaokuta Steel Company, promising that the House would work with the executive to ensure the realization of the project.

The plant, which was designed to be a spring board for development of the nation, has remained uncompleted 30 years after, Tambuwal stated.

The governor of Kogi State, Cap-

DAILY TRUST

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FG opens prison for Boko Haram

THE Federal Government is opening a secret detention center to hold and interrogate suspected high-level members of the Boko Haram sect which has been blamed for hundreds of killings, the Associated Press news agency reported, quoting unnamed security sources.

While the facility raises concerns about its possible use for torture and illegal detentions, it could create a more cohesive effort among disparate and

sometimes feuding security agencies to combat the sect.

The prison is in Lagos, far from the violence plaguing the North, where Boko Haram carries out frequent bombings and shootings, said the security offi-

cial, who is directly involved in the project. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to discuss the facility with journalists.

"All suspects arrested will be taken to the center and would

be interrogated there before being taken to Lagos. He arranged for his press conference to be held in a secure location in Lagos.

The detention center was created at the orders of the National Security Adviser Gen. Andrew Owoye Azazi, the official said. Azazi's telephone number is unlisted and the AP

Continued on page 5

Dankwambo: I never committed subsidy fraud

Representatives subsidy inquiry report, which accused him of making questionable payments when he was accountant general of the federation in 2009-2010.

"Be clear in your mind that Dankwambo has never committed any fraud and will never be involved in a fraud," the governor said in Gombe while signing the fiscal responsibility law.

The House committee, headed by Faruk Lawal, submitted its report on Wednesday, saying among others that the "accountant general that served during the period 2009 was found to have made payments of equal instalments of N999

“Be clear in your mind that Dankwambo has never committed and will never be involved in a fraud.”

million for the record of 128 times within 24 hours totaling N127.872 billion.”

Dankwambo said yesterday that it was impossible to make the alleged payments under the electronic payment system he operated as accountant general.

"While I was coming out today, I read in the headlines, they mentioned some few people, including my name that we were in the subsidy report. Let me mention clearly that the Office of Accountant-General of the Federation does not pay subsidy," he said.

"Let me also mention clearly that when I heard the information, I quickly called the office of the Accountant-General and it was found out that the statement that was used was a statement of the

Continued on page 5

PHOTO: SABAGANA TUJANI



THE United Nations top military officer with top Nigerian military officials visited the Shehu of Borno, Alhaji Abubakar Garbai Amin El-Kanemi, in Maiduguri yesterday.

Jonathan pleads for German help to fight Boko Haram

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan has asked for the support of Germany in combating the Boko Haram insurgents.

Speaking during a joint press briefing with German Chancellor, Angela Merkel yesterday after a meeting in Berlin, Jonathan asked for technical support to fight the Boko Haram. The President said his government needs superior equipments and modern technology to defeat the terror group.

He said "the area we expect our development partners especially countries like Germany to help is in terms of our security architecture, training and providing us with some modern equipment. You have to fight terrorists with technology because terrorists do not need to come with a rifle and you confront them one on one. They will surprise you, they will not come to engage you except to defend themselves occasionally.

“You have to fight terrorists with technology because terrorists do not need to come with a rifle and you confront them one on one.”

"So, you must have superior technology to monitor them and know how you can relate with them. "And these are the areas we believe that countries like Germany and others and even the United Nations (UN) can assist us.

"As a nation, we have security challenges because most investors talk about security. At present, we have the local terrorist group code named Boko Haram. In her response, Merkel assured Nigeria of German support in combating terrorism in the country.

"I think what is most important is the resolve of the Nigerian government to deal with such a group and to remain on top of the situation and protect the peace loving people of Nigeria who suffer most from such attacks.

"Where ever we can be helpful, be it in training, be it in logistics, we will certainly be glad to do that and the details can then be worked out by the bi-national commission," she said.

The German Chancellor said the newly established bilateral commission between Germany and Nigeria will consider the issue of Boko Haram with a view to finding ways to collaborate in fighting it.



PHOTO: NAN

REPRESENTATIVE of former President Obasanjo, Prof Bunmi Okebukola; former Minister of External Affairs, Prof. Bolaji Akinyemi, and former Head of State, and Chairman of the Occasion, retired Gen. Yakubu Gowon, during the 8th brainstorming session on 'Regional Integration in West Africa and Globalisation; Challenges, Opportunities and Way Forward' in Lagos yesterday.

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was unable to contact him for comment.

Ekpeyong Ita, the director-general of the State Security Service, declined to comment yesterday when the AP asked him about the prison.

Minutes later, spokeswoman for the State Security Service, Marilyn Ogar, called an AP journalist and said anyone with information about the purported prison should go to the courts instead of talking to journalists.

"Whatever we do, we're running a democratic system that respects the rule of law," she said.

Ogar appeared later yesterday on the Nigerian Television Authority before the AP published its story. In an interview, she said that a "group of disgruntled people have gone to the foreign media to say that Nigeria has now produced another Guantanamo Bay," referring to the U.S. military detention camp in Cuba.

She said there was no such detention facility and no plans to set it up.

It was not immediately clear why the government would open the detention center in secret. However, Boko Haram has carried out high-profile attacks on

federal prisons in the country in the past that has seen hundreds of inmates escape.

Boko Haram, whose name means "Western education is prohibited" in the Hausa language, is blamed for the wave of sophisticated bombings and gun attacks in the North.

The sect carried out a suicide bombing in August at United Nations' office in Abuja that killed 25 people and wounded more than 100 others, as well as a coordinated assault this January in Kano that killed at least 185 people.

Nigeria's security forces have notorious human rights records, with a documented history of abusing and even killing prisoners.

Police officers shot and killed Boko Haram's former leader Mohammed Yusuf in 2009 while he was in their custody, underscoring the lack of respect for human rights among the security forces. Security agencies have been unable to find and arrest the sect's current leader Sheikh Abubakar Shekau, who posts taunting videos on the Internet promising more violence.

"The problem we have is lack of synergy among the security agencies," the security official

told AP. Those agencies include the police, the military and intelligence agencies like the State Security Service.

Relations between the agencies are testy at times as each fights for its own budgetary allotments. There are also suspicions that some have been influenced by ethnic or religious factors in this nation of more than 160 million people with two dominant religions and more than 250 ethnic groups.

Intelligence agencies allegedly released a suspected Islamic radical in 2007 who later masterminded Boko Haram's suicide car bombing of the U.N. headquarters. Leaked U.S. diplomatic cable also show U.S. officials complained in 2008 about Nigeria's government quietly releasing other suspects into the custody of Islamic leaders as part of a program it called "Perception Management."

Suspected sect members have been arrested and kept locked up for months without being charged. Authorities also routinely arrest women and children related to suspected Boko Haram members in attempts to draw them out. Amnesty International has said some Boko Haram suspects have been "sub-

ject to enforced disappearances." This record leads to fears among human rights groups that the secret detention center could see more suspects disappear, deprived of the right to challenge their detentions in the courts.

"Attacks by armed groups do not absolve the Nigerian government of the responsibility to conduct security operations in a manner that complies with national and international law," Amnesty International said in a statement yesterday. "Widespread unlawful, incommunicado detention must cease immediately."

It is unclear whether any foreign governments have offered Nigeria advice or assistance in opening the detention center. U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria Terence P. McCulley, speaking to journalists April 4, said the U.S. is "working with the Nigerian government to help them develop a counterterrorism strategy that includes perhaps a center even to better coordinate information and intelligence that they receive."

But Deb MacLean, a U.S. Embassy spokeswoman, told the AP that she was unaware of the new detention center and said that the U.S. had no role in it.

I never committed subsidy fraud — Dankwambo

Continued from page 1

PPPPRA, that is Petroleum Products Pricing and Regulatory Agency, which the Accountant-General does not control.

"The Accountant-General of the Federation only pays on-line payment from the source either from the Consolidated Revenue Account or the Excess Crude Account which is the source of

payment into that account for the account to be monitored and to be paid by the PPPRA," the governor added.

Dankwambo suggested that contents of the report referring to him were political.

"I have done my best to ensure that I demonstrate accountability, transparency in the way I operate. But you should not forget that Dankwambo today is also a politi-

cian. So there can be so many factors that will be added to ridicule Gombe State's name.

"But be clear in your mind that Dankwambo has never committed any fraud and will never be involved in a fraud, so Gombe State people should be calm," he said.

He wondered why the House committee never bothered to invite him to explain his own

side. As governor, Dankwambo is immune from prosecution, but during the power probe in the House of Representatives in 2008, Cross River State Governor Liyel Imoke was invited to defend his tenure as minister of power years earlier.

The governor said he would issue more detailed reactions when he studied the full report of the House committee.

DAILY TRUST



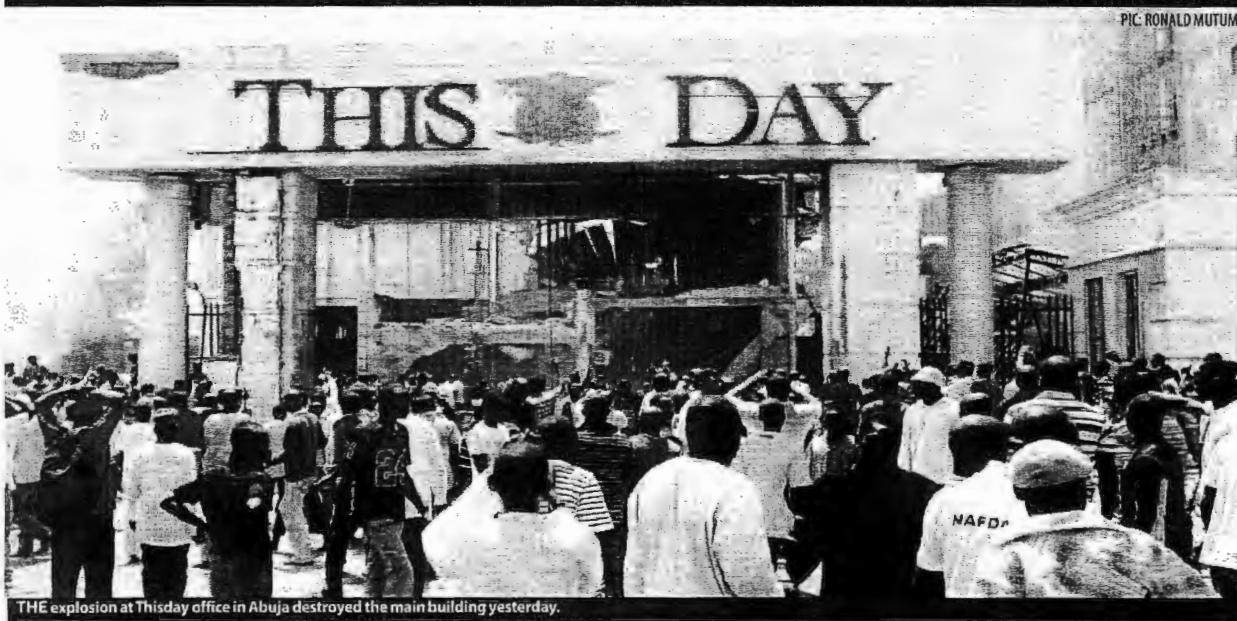
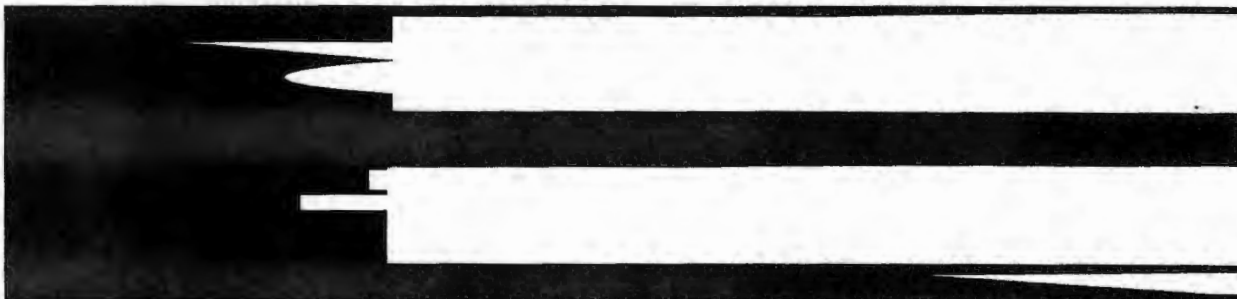
Inside Today's Daily Trust

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THE explosion at Thisday office in Abuja destroyed the main building yesterday.

By Hassan Abdul, Ronald Mutum, Judd-Leonard Okafor, Misbahu Bashir, Amina Alhassan, Abdulkadir B. Mukhtar, Ruby Leo (Abuja) & Isa Saidu, Isma'ila Mudashir, Christiana Alabi, Sunday Isuwa & Maryam Ahmadu-Suka (Kaduna)

THE suicide bomber who rammed into

the Abuja offices of *Thisday* newspaper yesterday was first denied entry at the back entrance before he drove in through the main gate in an Isuzu sports-utility vehicle, witnesses said.

Two people, as well as the bomber, were killed when the explosion occurred at about

11.07am at the newspaper office, which was opposite the busy Utako Motor Park.

Most journalists were not in the office at the time of the incident. The two dead people were security guards, officials said, while 13 others were injured, among them a 12-year-old kid.

Shortly after in Kaduna, another bomber struck a business premises where three newspapers including *Thisday* have offices. Two were killed, but the bomber was subdued by people around and was handed over to security agencies.

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Services: Senate flays MTN, Glo, Airtel, Etisalat

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flays MTN, Glo,

By Istaka Wakill

THE Senate yesterday accused GSM service providers MTN, Globacom, Airtel and Etisalat of short changing Nigerians by rendering poor quality mobile telephone services.

This followed the adoption of a motion by Senator Gbenga Ashafa (ACN, Lagos East) and 42 others on the deteriorating services provided by the GSM firms.

Deputy Senate President Ike Ekweremadu, who presided over the session, said, "Subscribers were being short changed by the poor quality services. Our regulatory agencies need to rise up and make the operators comply with the existing regulations."

Senators Chris Ngige (ACN, Anambra South East) and Boluwaji Kunlere (LP, Ondo Central) said the telecom providers were charging monies for services not provided.

"They are ripping off about three-quarters of Nigerians," Ngige said.

Senator Gilbert Nnaji (PDP, Enugu East) regretted that there had been no result since his committee recently queried the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and service providers over the issue.

Senator Smart Adeyemi (PDP, Kogi West) recommended that the service providers be charged on corporate social responsibility, regretting that the indiscriminate installation of masts exposed

Nigerians to health hazards.

Senator Femi Lanlehin (ACN, Oyo South) called for tough legislations to ensure workability of telecommunication services.

Opening up the debate earlier, Ashafa said GSM subscribers across the nation were disgruntled over the poor quality of services.

"The complaints include persistent dropped calls and resultant loss to the users billed for calls not utilised. Also, calls between networks are hardly audible and sometimes distorted. Despite this, operators are still flooding the market with promotions of all kinds to boost their revenues while failing to ensure customer satisfaction," he said.

For his part, Sen. Ibrahim Gobir (PDP, Sokoto) attributed the poor services of the GSM companies to the negligence of NCC.

He said 90 per cent of the problem was caused by NCC and he challenged NCC to find out the bandwidth capacity which each service provider could carry and ensure that they adhered to it.

The Senate mandated its Committee on Communications to investigate the effectiveness of the service providers and the NCC to enforce its policy on co-habitation of masts to reduce the radiation emanating from those masts.

There was no immediate comment from the GSM companies or from the NCC.



THE Explosion at the This Day Newspaper left other buildings around it with shattered window panes.

How suicide bomber hit Thisday office

Continued from page 1

Witnesses said the Abuja bomber crashed his sports-utility vehicle into the press hall of the Thisday office, destroying the main building in the premises.

Impact of the explosion shook the building and destroyed window panes as far as a kilometre away, while a deafening sound was heard further away.

When *Daily Trust* reporters visited the scene of the blast, the suicide vehicle was seen crumpled while the bomber's body was burning out.

Some decapitated body parts were also seen strewn in the vicinity.

Soon after the blast, street urchins looted the smouldering remains of the Thisday offices. They were seen scrambling and taking away electric fans and other items.

How Kaduna bomber was subdued

In Kaduna, the blast happened at about 11.30am at the SOJ Plaza, housing offices of Thisday, Moment and Sun newspapers, along Kontagora Road. Three people were killed while many sustained different degrees of injuries.

One of our correspondents, who was at the scene when the bomb detonated, said the bomber came in a Honda Academy car with registration number AL 306 MKA.

A victim of the blast said a man parked and locked the car in the premises, and attempted to run, telling people to be wary of bomb. People around the area chased and caught the man. They asked him to

remove the car from the plaza.

"Instead of the man to remove the car, he detonated the bomb, killing himself and other two people," a witness said.

Another account of the incident said there were two bombers, and the one who didn't die was handed over to the police.

Owner of the plaza, Alhaji Suleiman Jaiyeola, said one of his staff was injured and was receiving treatment at Hope Hospital. He said the explosion has shattered the glasses of the building.

Hours after the explosion at SOJ Plaza, another blast occurred at Angwan Muazu in Kaduna South local government area.

A witness told our correspondent that two men came into the area on a motorbike and attempted to plant the bomb.

"It was in the process of planting the bomb that it exploded, injuring both men. No one lost his life," a witness said.

How the incidents happened, by SSS In a statement in Abuja, the State Security Services narrated how the two incidents targeting newspaper offices happened.

"On 26th April, 2012, about 1100 hours, a dark green coloured Isuzu Jeep wired with bombs, forced its way into the premises of Thisday Newspaper, at Jabi, Abuja and it detonated killing the suicide bomber," spokesman for the SSS, Marilyn Ogar, said.

"Meanwhile, two persons and the suicide bomber are confirmed dead while 13 persons were injured and are currently receiving treatment.

"Also, at 1100 hours, two persons in a

cream coloured Honda Accord (Academy) car with registration number AL 306 MKA, drove into SOJ Global Communications and Investment Limited Plaza, located at R9, Kontagora road, Ahmadu Bello Way, Kaduna which houses correspondents of The Sun, Thisday and Moments Newspapers.

"One of the assailants, Umaru Umaru Mustapha, an indigene of Maiduguri, Borno State, alighted the car with a container of Improvised Explosive Device (IED). He was immediately challenged by two gallant Nigerians following which he threw the bomb at them and it denoted killing them instantly. Subsequently, Mustapha pulled out a pistol and fired several shots in the air in an attempt to escape.

"He was however caught and subdued by brave members of the public who refused to be intimidated and handed him over to security forces. Nine (9) persons were injured and are receiving treatment."

"Misguided, horrendous, wicked" President Jonathan described the attacks in Abuja and Kaduna as "misguided, horrendous and wicked."

A statement by presidential spokesman Reuben Abati said Jonathan, who is in Cote D'Ivoire for the ECOWAS meeting, reaffirmed the commitment of the Federal Government to continue to uphold citizen's constitutional rights to freedom of expression and of press freedom in particular.

He said that criminal elements bent on instilling fear in the minds of Nigerians and foreigners would not succeed.

Claim of responsibility

A news website, *Premium Times*, last night claimed to have spoken to a purported spokesman for Boko Haram claiming responsibility for the attacks yesterday. *Daily Trust* could not independently verify the authenticity of the report.

Boko Haram's style of issuing statements has been through teleconferences or posting YouTube videos. There was no such message from them yesterday.

The *Premium Times* report quoted the purported spokesman for the sect, Abul Qaqa, as saying that it attacked *Thisday* Thursday to send a message to the media that it would no longer condone reports misrepresenting it in the press, or blaming it for acts it knows nothing about.

"We have repeatedly cautioned reporters and media houses to be professional and objective in their reports. This is a war between us and the Government of Nigeria; unfortunately the media have not been objective and fair in their report of the ongoing war, they chose to take side," Qaqa said.

Abul Qaqa was reported to have been captured in Kaduna in February, while another person who took over the nom de guerre was reported to have been killed earlier this month.

"They (*Thisday*) once insulted the Prophet Mohammed in 2001 and we have not forgotten. They recently said our Imam executed me which is false. Here I am speaking to you, I am alive and healthy," the report yesterday said.

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Page 4

From Onimisi Alao & Hassan Ibrahim, Jos

A ray of hope flickered yesterday for a possible re-start of talks between the government and Boko Haram as National Security Adviser Sambo Dasuki announced that he is planning to meet with the sect's leaders.

Dasuki, who spoke in Jos during a meeting with stakeholders in Plateau State, said he will meet with the group to push for a ceasefire and dialogue, but he did not

“ I have got the telephone numbers and contacts of key Boko Haram members and I will meet with them ”

give a date of when this will happen.

“I was in Yobe and Borno states last week and I have got the telephone numbers and contacts of key Boko Haram members and I will meet with them,” the NSA said at the meeting, which was attended by Governor Jonah Jang as well as top traditional and religious leaders.

“I saw the dangerous effect of Boko
Continued on page 5



PLATEAU state Governor Jonah Jang (l), with National Security Adviser Sambo Dasuki, at a security meeting in Jos yesterday.

By Isliaka Wakill

JUSTICE Aloma Mariam Mukhtar is set to become the first woman chief judicial officer of the country

following her nomination by President Jonathan to the Senate for confirmation as Chief Justice of Nigeria.

In a letter to Senate President David Mark dated

July 3, Jonathan asked the Senate to approve the nomination of Justice Mukhtar to replace outgoing CJN Justice Dahiru Musdapher.

“I have the honour to

forward the nomination of Honourable Justice Aloma Mariam Mukhtar, CON, CFR for confirmation as Chief Justice of Nigeria. It is my hope that this request

will receive the usual expeditious attention of the distinguished Senate,” said the president's letter, which was presented on the floor of the Senate yesterday.

Jonathan said he was making the nomination under Section 231 Sub-section (1) of the 1999 Constitution which gives the pres-

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Mariam Aloma Mukhtar nominated CJN

By Mikbahu Bashir

THE US embassy in Nigeria yesterday warned its citizens about threats to American targets through the independence holiday week.

"The U.S. Mission in Nigeria is issuing this emergency message to inform U.S. citizens of potential threats against U.S. installations during the July 4 holiday week," said a statement posted on the embassy's website.

Abuja was hit by fresh violence late Tuesday when a blast went off outside a shopping centre popular with both foreigners and locals. US citizens in Abuja remain barred from visiting places of worship as well as nearby commercial establishments and must return to their homes by midnight, according to the embassy statement.

The Boko Haram Islamist group, responsible for scores of attacks in recent months, has intensified attacks on Sundays and holidays. The embassy "is working with the government of Nigeria to implement additional security measures," through the July 4 holiday week, the statement also said.

Last month, Washington designated three Boko Haram leaders as global terrorists; a move it said was aimed to help stem the violence in Nigeria.

The Commissioner of Police in Abuja, Ade Shinaba, said he was not aware of any plot to carry out major attacks in Abuja by any group, noting that the police was doing everything possible to protect citizens and foreigners from any form of attack.

He said people should not be apprehensive about unconfirmed warnings of imminent attacks.

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ident the powers to appoint a Chief Justice of Nigeria, acting on the recommendation of the National Judicial Council and subject to confirmation by the Senate.

If her appointment is confirmed, Justice Aloma Mukhtar will serve for just over two years before she attains her mandatory retirement age of 70 in November 2014.

Aloma Mariam Mukhtar, who hails from Kano, was born on November 20, 1944. She attended St. George Primary School, Zaria; St. Batholomew School, Wusasa, Zaria; Rossholme School for Girls, East Brent, Somersets; England, Reading Technical College, Reading, United Kingdom; and Weidon College of Law.

She was called to the English Bar in absentia in November 1966, and called to the Nigerian Bar on June 26, 1967.

She worked as Pupil State Counsel, Ministry of Justice, Northern Nigeria, 1967; Office

of the Legal Draftsman, Interim Common Services Agency; Magistrate Grade I, North Eastern State Government, 1971; Chief Registrar, Kano State Government Judiciary, 1973; Judge of the High Court of Kano State, 1977-1987; Justice of the Court of Appeal, 1987-1993; Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeal, 1993-2005; and Justice of the Supreme Court, June 2005 to date.

Two Supreme Court justices named

Jonathan also yesterday asked the Senate to confirm the appointments of two justices of the Court of Appeal, Justices Kumai Bayang Akaahs (North-West) and Stanley Shenko Alagaa (South-South) as justices of the Supreme Court.

"These appointments have been necessitated by the impending retirement from service of Hon. Justice Dahiru Musdapher, Chief Justice of Nigeria, and Hon. Justice FF Tabai," he said in another letter to the Senate President, presented yesterday in the Senate.

CJNs in history

Adetokumbo Ademola	1958-1972
Taslim Olawale Elias	1972-1975
Darnley Arthur Alexander	1975-1979
Atanda Fatai Williams	1979-1983
George Sodeinde Sowemimo	1983-1985
Ayo Gabriel Irikefe	1985-1987
Mohammed Bello	1987-1995
Muhammad Lawal Uwais	1995-2006
Saliyu Moddibo Alfa Belgore	2006-2007
Idris Legbo Kutigi	2007-2009
Aloysius Iyorgyer Katsina-Alu	2009-2011
Dahiru Musdapher	2011-to date



JUSTICE Mariam Aloma Mukhtar

NSA Dasuki to meet Boko Haram chiefs

Continued from page 1

Haram in these states and what I saw was pathetic. But I have the mandate to put heads together with religious and traditional leaders as well as the state governments to ensure an immediate ceasefire."

Dasuki said that the declaration of a state of emergency was having negative effects on the affected areas. "So far, I have seen the negative effects of the state of emergency in Yobe and Borno states especially; personally, I do not support the issue of state of emergency," he said.

Mediated talks between the Federal Government and Boko Haram broke off at an incipient stage in March after the government pulled out citing insincerity on the part of the government.

Officials had said since then that government was not averse to dialogue but could not proceed so long as the sect remained "faceless." The sect itself said it has foreclosed dialogue because of what it called betrayal by the government in previous peace efforts.

Dasuki's announcement yes-

terday came just weeks after his appointment and removal of erstwhile NSA, General Andrew Azazi.

He said he was in Plateau for on-the-spot assessment of the security challenge and in furtherance of the Federal Government's peace efforts, particularly in the North.

"I have a stake in Plateau because I have lived in Pankshin and Jos when my father resided here. So if we lived peacefully way back then, it is possible to go back to those good old days," he said.

"Before now, it is difficult for me to believe that you can see a Fulani and Berom man together on the street of Plateau fighting. But the presence of various ethnic and religious groups at this parley is a pointer to the fact that we want to forge ahead."

In his remarks, Governor Jonah Jang said emergency rule in parts of the state had not achieved the intended effect as the attacks on the affected local government areas had continued unabated.

On dialogue with Boko Haram, Jang said that it was difficult to dialogue with the group since its leaders and members

were not known.

He said, "We only hear that Boko Haram claims responsibility for this and that attack but we never heard anybody coming out to say he is Boko Haram. We know the Niger Delta militants had leaders and a cause they were fighting for which made late President Yar'Adua to succeed with the amnesty programme but, who is Boko Haram?"

Jang alleged that some influential people were behind the sect in view of the sophistication of its operations and insisted that the sponsors must be dealt with by the appropriate authority.

He also accused authorities in Abuja of freeing people suspected of participating in the 2008 Jos crisis.

"When we had our crisis in 2008, we arrested some Chadians, over 50, and some Nigeriens, again the number was over 50. We documented them and even took their pictures," he said.

"But Abuja was accusing us of telling lies; that the people were not Chadians and Nigeriens. They took those people to Abuja and freed them. Today security forces in Abuja are talking about

Chadians and Nigeriens being arrested. We don't know if it is the same people we arrested that are now going round in circles. If our position had been given due regard and the matter dealt with appropriately, the evil would not have been repeating itself today."

Gbong Gwom Jos, Jacob Gyang Buba, also spoke on what he called security management being centralised in Abuja. "The governor being the chief security officer of his state is a constitutional statement with no practical expression. This should change to give the governor real powers to administer security in his domain," he said.

Chairman, Council of Ulama of Jama'atu Izalatul Bid'awa Ikmatusunnah (JIBWIS), Sheikh Sani Yahaya Jingir, urged the NSA to invite all the parties involved in the conflicts in the state to a different and smaller forum so that detailed information can be obtained. Jingir was represented at the meeting by Sheikh Nassir Abdul Muhiyi who took exception to Gbong Gwom Jos's remark that certain people should not lay claim to leadership in Jos.

Buba had in his speech said

only people who are indigenous to Jos should expect to hold certain positions in the city.

After his main speech, Dasuki responded to issues raised by other speakers, emphasising the need for collaboration between the Federal Government and the authorities in Plateau.

"My intention is to work with the governor because the governor who is in the state and is the chief executive here should know the situation better. Ours is to complement his efforts and make his job easier by the same token make our own job easier because if there is peace in Plateau, it will mean less problem in the nation," he said.

"We will be meeting with even the local people in smaller groups so that everyone can have a chance to speak their minds," he added. "Someone said decisions over Plateau are made and implemented in Abuja, no, that will not happen; not with me, it won't happen."

The meeting was attended by traditional, religious and community leaders, heads of security services, women, youth groups, and government functionaries.

DAILY TRUST



Inside Today's Daily Trust

Unity Bank agric loan hits N28bn in 2 years

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'We feel the pains Boko Haram inflict on Christians'

Page 2



● Shekau makes United States terror list

By Misbahu Bashir

THE man suspected to be the alleged brain behind the attack on a church in Madalla, Niger State on Christmas day, Habibu Bama, has been critically wounded and captured in Damaturu, military sources said yesterday.

The arrest came on a day the United States (US) designated Abubakar Shekau, the leader of Boko Haram and two others as terrorists. The two others are Abubakar Adam Kamar and Khalid al-Barnawi. But the US stopped short of putting the group as a whole on its terror list.

Military sources said the curfew imposed on Damaturu "paid off" because Bama was equally trapped in the town.

When the curfew was relaxed, he went out to the market together with two of his accomplices in order to buy food items, the source said.

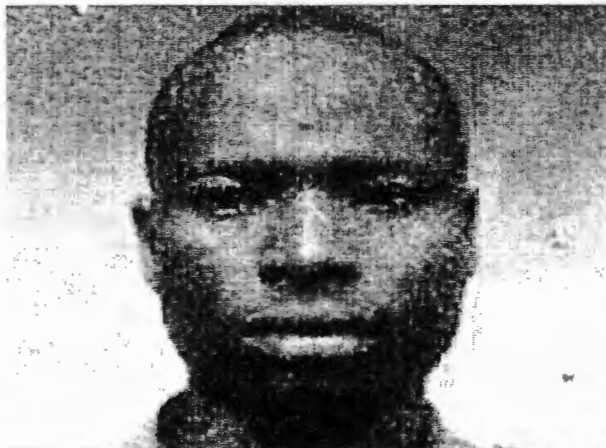
"He bought Irish potatoes, yam and was about buying sachet water when he was captured along with two of his boys by some soldiers on patrol," the source said.

"A soldier who was Bama's neighbour during his military days saw him at the market and immediately alerted his colleagues," he said.

He said Bama had attempted to snatch a gun from one of the soldiers but was overpowered. "He was shot in the leg and thereafter arrested," he said.

Another source said Bama died from gunshot wounds, but that was not confirmed as at press time.

Bama is also suspected to have a hand in the planning and bombing of UN building



HABIBU Bama

in Abuja.

The State Security Service named Bama as another suspect in the St. Theresa's Catho-

lic Church blast that killed at least 40 people on Christmas day. A top suspect, Kabiru Sokoto, was the first to be arrested.

“ Bama had attempted to snatch a gun from one of the soldiers but was overpowered. “He was shot in the leg and thereafter arrested.

In declaring Bama wanted few months ago the SSS said in a statement: “Habibu Bama is an ex-soldier from Bama, Borno State. He is also known by the following names: Habib Bama, Shuaibu Bama, and Habib Mamman.”

But a security source told *Daily Trust* that Habibu Bama is the prime suspect in the Madalla bombing, and not Kabiru Sokoto as the police earlier claimed.

Meanwhile, in placing Abubakar Shekau on its terrorist list, the US said he was the most visible of the group's (Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal-Jihad, commonly referred to as Boko Haram) leaders.

But the US stopped short of putting the group as a whole on its terror list.

"In the last 18 months, Boko Haram or associated militants have killed more than 1,000 people," the State Department said in a statement.

The two other men were accused of close links to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, which has been designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the United States.

"Under Shekau's leadership, Boko Haram has claimed responsibility for numerous attacks in northern Nigeria, its primary area of operation," the statement said, adding that most of the victims were "overwhelmingly civilian."

The designation under E.O. 13224 blocks all of Shekau's, Kamar's and al-Barnawi's property interests subject to U.S. jurisdiction and prohibits U.S. persons from engaging in transactions with or for the benefit of these individuals. These designations demonstrate the United States' resolve in

Continued on page 5

Madallah bomb blast mastermind captured

Continued from Page 1

diminishing the capacity of Boko Haram to execute violent attacks. The Department of State took these actions in consultation with the departments of Justice and Treasury.

Initially, the statement said, the group had said it was fighting for the creation of an Islamic state in the north of Nigeria.

But a range of demands by different people

have since been issued, including the release of its members from prison.

Boko Haram launched an uprising in 2009, leading to nearly a week of fighting that ended with a military assault that left some 800 people dead.

Just this week, Boko Haram claimed responsibility for suicide attacks on churches in Kaduna State on Sunday that left about 34 people dead. They also sparked reprisals by Christian mobs against mosques and Muslims

that killed dozens.

Frustration over the government's inability to stop attacks by the group has triggered warnings.

Shekau was seen as the second-in-command of Boko Haram during a 2009 uprising.

The leader at the time, Mohammed Yusuf, was captured by soldiers and handed over to police. Yusuf was later killed when the police claimed he was trying to escape, though rights groups have called it a summary execution.

JTF parades suspected masterminds of Biu church attack

THE Joint Task Force (JTF) on Operation Restore Order (ORO) yesterday paraded seven suspected terrorists in connection with Sunday's attack on EYN Church at Biu in Borno.

JTF spokesman Lt.-Col. Sagir Musa paraded the suspects before newsmen at the 21 Brigade, Giwa Barracks in Maiduguri.

"The suspects were arrested by our troops and the Department of State Security Service (SSS).

"They are strongly believed to be involved in the attack on EYN Church, Biu, last Sunday which led to the killing of some worshippers," Musa said.

He said the suspects were being interrogated to find out their level of involvement before necessary action would be taken.

Musa also alerted Maiduguri residents on planned suicide attacks by terrorists on the city.

"Information recently available to the JTF indicate that there have been desperate moves by some terrorists to snatch vehicles from motorists to be used in carrying out terrorist attacks.

"The snatched vehicles will be used for terrorist attacks by implanting Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in them and or through suicide bombings," he said.

Musa called on motorists whose vehicles had been snatched to immediately report to the JTF or the police. (NAN)



REPRESENTATIVE of the Minister of State for FCT, Mrs. Jummai Kwanashie (left); Chairman Bwari Area Council, Peter Ushafa and other officials during the flag off of the community sanitation exercise in Kuduru Community, Bwari yesterday.

Bafarawa blames politicians for insecurity

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

NORTHERN politicians are to blame for the insecurity in the region, former governor of Sokoto State Attahiru Dohar Bafarawa has said.

Bafarawa, who spoke on the BBC Hausa Service yesterday, said northern politicians should rise up and face the challenge of insecurity rather than wait for the government to address the problem.

He said both Muslims and Christians

in the region must dialogue on how to end the problem.

"The current insecurity is our fault, we the politicians. We are the ones who created all these problems in the North," he said.

Senate backs creation of Edu State

By Isliaka Wakill

THE Senate yesterday indicated its intention to support the request for the creation of Edu State in the forthcoming constitution review exercise.

Edu is required by various groups

from the present Nigen, Kogi and Kwara states.

Senate President David Mark said this in Abuja while receiving an updated memorandum from the leader of a delegation from the three states, Etsu Nupe Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar.

Mark was represented by Senate Leader Victor Ndoma-Egba. Former Minister of Information and National Orientation Prof. Jerry Gana said the proposed state is a prospective oil-producing state which also has variety of solid minerals.

House probes customs, prisons, immigration pensions

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE House of Representatives yesterday instituted an investigation into difficulties said to be faced by retired Customs, Immigration and Prison officers in obtaining pension benefits.

Adopting a motion on the matter sponsored by Rep. Jerry Alagbaoso (PDP, Imo), the House resolved to set up an ad hoc committee that will investigate allegations of fraud in payments of retirement benefits and gratuities by the Customs, Immigration and Prisons Pension Office (CIPPO) and report back to it within six weeks.

The probe is coming 24 hours after the report of the Senate committee on pensions that uncovered N273 billion fraud in the pension scheme.

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Boko Haram: No talks with FG

From Hamza Idris, Maiduguri

LEADER of the Jama'atu Ahlis Sunnah Lidda'awati wal Jihad, known as Boko Haram, Imam Abu Muhammad Abubakar Bin Muhammad Shekau, yesterday denied statements credited to renowned Islamic scholar, Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi, that the Sect had agreed to resume dialogue with the Federal Government.

In a statement sent to reporters in Maiduguri last night, Shekau said the Boko Haram would never resume dialogue, stressing that they would soon dismantle the Federal Government and establish Sharia system in the country.

The sect equally warned the media to pub-

... Sect disowns Dahiru Bauchi

lish their "dissociation" from the purported talks and give it the kind of prominence given Dahiru Bauchi or risk being attacked.

The group also claimed responsibility for the killing of retired DIG Sale Abubakar Ningi in Kano on Tuesday, threatening to continue to attack the "who is who" in the country.

The statement written in Hausa and signed by the spokesman of the group, Abul Qaqa last night reads in full: "This is a response to the story we read in the media that our group, the Jama'atu Ahlis Sunnah Lidda'awati wal Jihad, would commence, or

rather had commenced dialogue with the federal government of Nigeria through Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi.

"We want to inform the general public that there is no iota of truth in all what was said. We also want to appeal to the learned Sheikh to steer clear because he is highly revered in the society and must remain as such.

"He should preserve and protect his integrity. He must also desist from giving room to some misguided elements to mislead and drag his name in the mud.

"We want to reiterate that there were no

talks or dialogue between us and anybody or group since the time that Dr. Ibrahim Datti's mediation moves collapsed.

"We have made it abundantly clear that we would never open our doors for any talks because our noble Prophet (Muhammad S.A.W) said a true believer will never avail himself to be deceived twice.

"We also want to bring to the notice of the general public that on Tuesday, operatives of the JTF had made attempt to waylay some of our brethrens at Kawarmaila area of Maid-

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SSS nabs customs comptroller over arms deal

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar, Mibabahu Bashir, Sunday Williams, Abuja & Aliyu M. Hamagani, Minna

A Comptroller of Customs was arrested on Tuesday in Abuja for allegedly buying armmunitions over time from Niger State Police Command.

Mr. Jack Bot was arrested by men of the State Security Service (SSS) at the Customs head office Wuse, Abuja, according to BBC. Hausa service report monitored in Abuja yesterday.

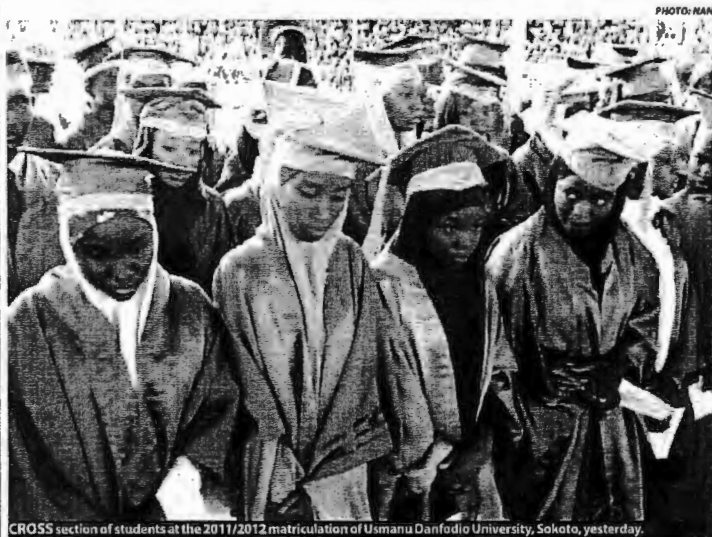
The SSS also arrested two police officers for alleged involvement in supplying arms and ammunition to armed robbers, and the information they provided led to the arrest of Mr. Bot.

The customs officer and the two policemen were alleged to have a connection with the disappearance of some armmunition from the police armoury in Minna.

The security operatives had earlier arrested Bot's former orderly, identified only as Shehu.

Commenting on the arrest in an interview with Radio France, Hausa service, yesterday, the Comptroller General of Customs Service, Abdullahi Inde Dikko said: "For long we have been working with Ali Kwara, who informed me that they suspected that someone among my officers is aiding armed robbers with weapons. I told him he should fish him out

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CROSS section of students at the 2011/2012 matriculation of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, yesterday.

SSS nabs customs comptroller over arms deal

Continued from Page 1

and arrest him, whoever he is. Eventually, they arrested a junior officer, one Shehu, who is an orderly to a comptroller, Jack, from Plateau State.

When Ali Kwara arrested Shehu, he (Shehu) told him

that Jack is his boss and they have been doing this together since 2002, and they even supplied weapons to Jos during crises. I thank God that out of 20,000 people I am heading only two people were accused of such crime."

Earlier, the spokesman of the Nigerian Customs

Service Wale Adeniyi had confirmed Bot's arrest in a text message to our reporter's enquiry. "I can confirm SSS arrest of a comptroller. Investigation is in full swing; will keep you posted," the text message read.

Sources told *Daily Trust* in the course of investigat-

ing the story that two police inspectors were arrested and transferred to Force Headquarters last week.

The source said the arrest of some armed robbery suspects led to the arrest of a customs officer and two police inspectors over weapons and munitions supply to

the alleged robbers.

The source said the customs officer confessed to investigators that he got his supply of arms and ammunition from two police officers in Niger State.

The Niger State Commissioner of Police Mrs. Desire D. Nsirim confirmed to

Daily Trust on phone that two policemen have been arrested and taken to Force Headquarters in Abuja.

"A customs officer and two policemen were taken to Force Headquarters, Abuja for investigation on a misdeed," she said but refused to elaborate.

'No talks with FG' Reps reject bill outlawing defection to another party

Continued from Page 1
duguri metropolis. As Allah pleased, they did not succeed because we triumphed over them and killed over 50 soldiers. We lost only one member from our group and we believe he is a martyr.

"But in their (JTF) usual antics, when they returned to the area today (yesterday) to collect the corpses of their people, they clamped down on the civilian population and burnt many houses in order to vent their frustration.

"However, we want to

appeal to the peace loving people of Borno State to persevere because by the Grace of Allah, we would very soon chase away the military operatives of the infidels and establish Sharia system which will be full of fairness and justice.

"As Allah pleases, we have succeeded in killing retired DIG Haruna Ningi in Kano on Tuesday. We want to reiterate that we would intensify our searchlight on all who is who in the present dispensation until we eliminate all of them.

"We are also sending red signal to all media houses who relentlessly gave prominence to what Sheikh Dahuru Bauchi said in respect of the purported dialogue to accord similar treatment to what we said.

"Any media organization that fails to give us the right of reply should have itself to blame because we would target it even if such medium is not among the ones we earlier promised to attack. This is a warning to all radio, television and newspaper houses."

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE House of Representatives yesterday threw out a bill seeking to prevent members of the National Assembly from defecting to political parties other than the ones they were elected on.

Sponsored by Rep. Eddie Mbadiwe (PDP, Imo), the bill sought to alter the provisions of Section 68 of the 1999 Constitution as amended to remove the clause allowing legislators to cross carpet from one political party to another.

In his submission, Mbadiwe argued that it would be unethical for lawmakers to dump the platform which brought them to office.

However, Rep Aminu Suleiman Goro (PDP, Kano) countered him saying, "I am compelled to oppose the bill because it seeks to imprison us in a political party even when such a party derails from its ideologies which attracted people to join it."

When the question was put by Speaker Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, the House voted against it.

Daily Trust reader, Prof. Muhammad Bello Shitu of the Bayero University, Kano, sent this picture taken along Malum-fashi - Dayi road, Katsina State. He says, "I was told that the passengers in the Toyota car were returning from a periodic market heading home." Do you have an interesting picture to share with our readers? Email it to: mypicture@dailytrust.com



House probes judgment debts by Attorney General

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE House of Representatives yesterday mandated its committee on Justice to investigate the accumulation and payments of judgment debts by Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

The House directed the Justice Committee to carry

out a thorough investigation into the matter and report back in 21 days.

The House also called on President Goodluck Jonathan to suspend the payment of judgment claim to Interstella Communications Limited, and other payments pending the outcome of the investigations.

The decision followed a motion on the matter

raised by Rep. Robinson Uwak (PDP, Akwa Ibom), who expressed concern that the office of the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) and Minister of Justice has been "wittingly or unwittingly encouraging the procurement of judgment debts against the Federal Government, thus the need to verify the processes."

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SGF to rehabilitate offices with N2.3bn

By Yunus Abdulhamid

The Secretary to the Government of the Federation's office will spend about N2.3 billion on rehabilitation of office buildings in 2013,

according to details of next year's budget.

A breakdown of the budget, which was unveiled by President Jonathan two weeks ago, showed that the SGF's office has a total budget of N10 billion—comprising N4.5

billion for capital projects and N5.5 billion for recurrent expenditure. Out of the capital vote, rehabilitation of office buildings will gulp N2.3 billion, but no list of the buildings was provided.

Continued on Page 5

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

Senator Ahmed Zanna is scheduled to appear before operatives of the State Security Service today to answer questions over allegations that a top Boko Haram

commander was found at his home in Maiduguri on Thursday.

The SSS invitation to Zanna (PDP, Borno Central) came as he insisted yesterday that the arrested sect member, Shuaibu Mohammed Bama, was not

found in his house but in the house of a former Borno State governor.

On Friday, the Joint Task Force announced that they captured Bama at the home of a serving senator along Damboa Road in Maiduguri without naming the

senator. Zanna happens to be the only serving senator whose home is along that road.

But Zanna told journalists in Abuja yesterday that the JTF operatives were

Continued on Page 5



■ Dr. Olusegun Mimiko of the Labour Party with supporters yesterday in Akure soon after he was declared winner of Saturday's governorship election in Ondo State.

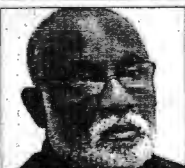
PHOTO NAN

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PDP concedes defeat to Mimiko, ACN 'analysing'



Nigerian leaders emerge unprepared — Sanusi

SGF to rehabilitate offices with N2.3 billion

Cont'd. from page 1

in the budget document.

N527 million will go for the purchase of security equipment, while security services expenses will take N350 million. This sum will further shoot up the total federal security budget of over N1.055 trillion for 2013.

Rehabilitation and repair of libraries will cost N50 million, research and development will take N200 million, computer software acquisition N100 million and N60 million for monitoring and evaluation.

Also, the SGF's budget provides N80 million for tree planting but no details of where the trees would be planted.

N500 million will go to "construction/provision of infrastructure." In the entry, no further explanation was offered for what type of infrastructure would be built.

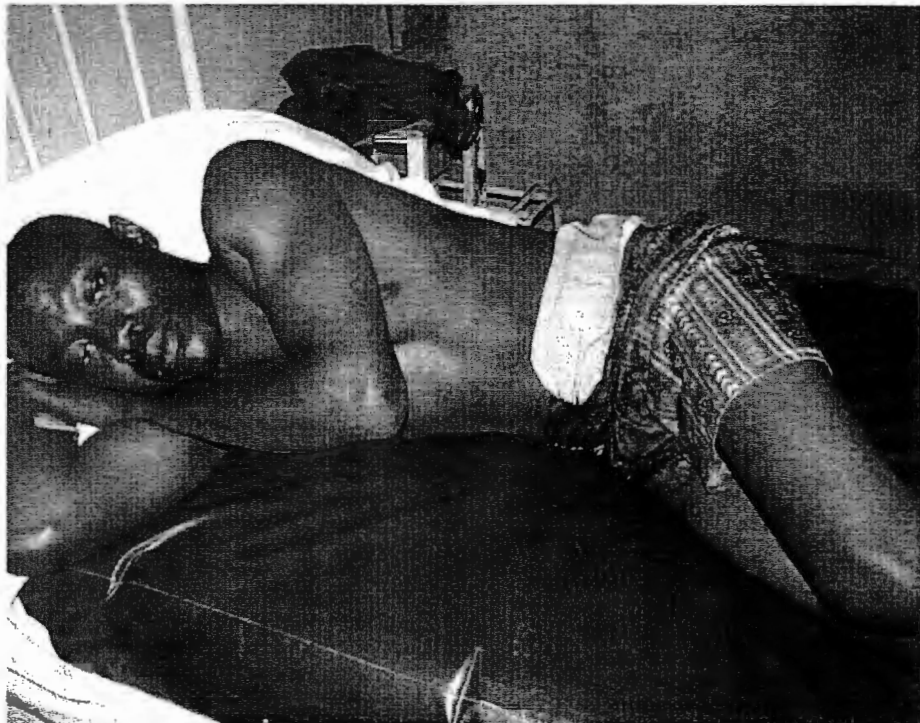
The sum of N100 million will be used to purchase of library books and equipment, N395 million is to be used in the provision of hospital and health centers just as electricity repairs would gulp N150 million.

Under the recurrent allocation, N14.3 million is allocated for generator fuel cost, motor vehicle fuel will take N25.8 million, N25 million is earmarked for medical expenses while N938 million is to be spent on subscription to professional bodies.

Fumigation and cleaning of offices will cost N115 million, local training will cost N60 million while international training will take N28 million.

Electricity charges will take N86 million, office stationery and computer consumables will cost the office N79 million, maintenance of motor vehicle and transport equipment will cost N20 million, magazines and periodicals N17 million while maintenance of generators would cost N8 million. Debate on the general principles of the N4.92 trillion federal budget has begun in the Senate and the House of Representatives, but there is no date set for the passage of the appropriation bill.

Fumigation and cleaning of offices will cost N115 million, local training will cost N60 million.



■ Sabba'u Sani, who was reported to have been shot along Hadejia road in Kano, receives treatment at Abdullahi Wase Specialist Hospital in Kano yesterday.

PHOTO Ibrahim Giginyu

SSS to quiz Senator today

Cont'd. from page 1

only trying to frame him up because he recently criticised them over disregard for rules of engagement.

"This morning (yesterday), I saw a text that the SSS DG will want to see me on Monday (today)...I will honour the invitation," Zanna said, adding he does not know what will happen when he sees the SSS boss Ita Ekpeyong.

When *Daily Trust* contacted SSS spokesperson Marilyn Ogar last night, she said she was not aware of the invitation.

Zanna will be the second serving senator to be quizzed by the SSS over links with Boko Haram after Senator Mohammed Ndume, who is now standing trial over alleged sponsorship of the sect which he denied.

"Ex-gov's home, not my home" Giving his account of the JTF raid on his house, Zanna yesterday said soldiers searched his home on Thursday and rounded up some boys found there, before proceeding to the ex-governor's home along Rabi Road, off Damboa Road, in Maiduguri where they arrested Bama.

"On Thursday, they (JTF) went to my house. I was in Warri at that time; I went for an oversight function. My wife called me, she said the army people were at our gate. Actually, they went with four armoured vehicles and about 40 of them came to my house," he said.

"They searched all the rooms and when they went to the children's room, they broke all their cabinets and searched everywhere. When they could not find anything, then they assembled all the boys, took them out and put them under the scorching sun. Actually, before doing that they beat them up, we had to take them to hospital later.

"Under this traumatising condition, they now asked them whether they know one

Shuaibu Bama. They said of course they know when they see him.

"One of them was asked to go and show them where he is living. As they were going, they stopped. In fact, they blindfolded the boy. And one of the officers asked one of the personnel to come down so that they should follow him to the house without the boy telling them where the house is.

"So, as they started going, the other officer asked him: If you know the house, then why should we pick this boy? And after some arguments, they went to the house and arrested the boy (Bama).

"Contrary to the claim of the JTF, the boy was arrested in Rabi Street, off Damboa Road. And the house belongs to (a former governor)." Attempts to speak with the former governor named by Zanna failed as he could not be reached by telephone and his former aides were not willing to speak on his behalf.

Zanna alleged that he was being framed up by JTF because of his recent BBC interview in which he criticised soldiers operating in Maiduguri and called for their withdrawal.

"This story emanating from the JTF is actually as a result of an interview which I carried out in BBC last week asking for their withdrawal from the state because they are not working according to the rules of engagement," he said.

"I noticed that they are just killing innocent people, killing them unnecessarily, harassing their families, extorting money. All these have been going on and I became so concerned. Particularly, the killing and burning of houses became an order of the day.

"At least 300 houses were burnt within the last one and a half months, and it will not be an exaggeration for me to say that up to 500 people were being killed by the bullets of the

JTF.

"I called for their withdrawal because even Boko Haram cannot do more than that. If they have come to protect us, they are not supposed to eliminate our young ones. Most of the people affected are young ones.

"According to the information I got yesterday, they have started even killing old men. Somebody who was about 70 years old was even killed. He was sitting down listening to a radio and a JTF man came and he said: 'Baba come'. So, they just took him to a certain distance and shot him. This is the type of things happening. So, my people are helpless. This warranted me to react."

When *Daily Trust* asked JTF spokesman Lt-Col. Sagir Musa to react to Zanna's accusations last night, he said he would not make any comments.

But JTF has consistently denied any extrajudicial killing or deliberate destruction of people's property in Maiduguri.

Zanna yesterday restated that he knows Bama but had nothing to do with him because he is a drug addict.

"Yes, he is my sister's son," he said. "As for his behaviour, he is a drug addict. He beats up my children, he abuses my friends. He came to my house, so I sent him away. That was about almost a year ago. And for whatever reason I don't know, he came to my house last week and I told my wife that he should leave the house.

"Some time ago, he even threatened to kill his mother. So, the mother was not even feeling comfortable living with him. And she narrated that to me. That is why I also do not want him to be near me."

Asked if he knew Bama to be a Boko Haram member, Zanna said, "I don't know him to be a Boko Haram member. Never, never, I do not know him to be a member of Boko Haram."

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By Mohammed S. Shehu,
Misbahu Bashir & Abdulkadir Yahaya

THE Federal Government yesterday issued a query to Inspector General of Police Hafiz Ringim, asking him to explain within 24

hours how a key Boko Haram suspect escaped from custody, Police Affairs Minister Caleb Olubolade said.

Kabiru Sokoto was arrested on Saturday and while the police were taking him to a location in Abaji, just outside Abuja, after

search in his house on Sunday, their vehicle came under attack and he escaped.

Ringim on Tuesday suspended Police commissioner Zakari Btu, who was in charge of investigating the suspect.

Yesterday, the Police Affairs minister

announced that Ringim's job too was on the line because he was the overall officer in charge.

"If he is found guilty of complicity, he himself will have to account for his mis-

Continued on page 5

PHOTO: NAN



RESIDENTS of Yar Akija area of Sokoto queue to fetch water from a motorized borehole yesterday, as water scarcity hits parts of the city sequel to rupture of pipes at the old market water pumping station.

From Allyu M. Hamagam,
Minna, & Abbas Jimoh

FIVE leaders of the opposition

Action Congress of Nigeria have been arrested over alleged involvement in last week's anti-petrol subsidy removal protests

in Minna, Niger State, in which many buildings were burnt. The ACN chiefs are former members of the ruling People's

Democratic Party, who defected in the run up to previous elections. They are former secretary

to the state government Adams Erena, former PDP national vice chairman for North-central

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W/Bank asks poorer nations to brace for slowdown

DEVELOPING countries should brace for a growth slowdown stemming partly from Europe's debt woes, as it sharply scaled back its estimates for expansion, the World Bank has said.

"Europe appears to have entered recession, and growth in several major developing countries (Brazil, India and to a lesser extent Russia, South Africa and Turkey) has slowed," the bank said as it updated forecasts made last June.

It predicted the global economy will expand by 2.5 per cent in 2012 and by 3.1 per cent in 2013, well behind the 3.6 per cent growth for each year that the bank had projected in June.

Developing countries' economies will continue to outpace those of richer, developed countries.

But the World Bank also lowered its forecasts for growth in these countries to 5.4 per cent in 2012 and 6 per cent in 2013.

That was down from previous estimates of 6.2 per cent and 6.3 per cent respectively for growth in developing countries.

"The downturn in Europe and weaker growth in developing countries raises the risk that the two developments reinforce one another, resulting in an even weaker outcome," it said.

It also cited failure so far to resolve high debts and deficits in Japan and the United States and slow growth in other high-income countries, and cautioned those could trigger sudden shocks.

Again, political tensions in the Middle East and North Africa could disrupt oil supplies and add another blow to global prospects, the World Bank said in a sobering assessment of the challenges facing the economy. (Reuters/NAN)



HOUSE Leader, Mulikat Akande, Deputy Chairman, House Committee on Appropriation, Ashiru Isa Mohammed, and the Chairman, Ad-Hoc Committee on the Constitution Review, Deputy Speaker House of Representatives, Eneka Ihedioha, during the Meeting of the Committee, at the National Assembly Abuja yesterday.

FG queries Ringim

Continued from page 1

takes," Olubolade told journalists.

When State House reporters asked if it was true that the IG was queried to explain the escape within 24 hours, Olubolade said, "That is true because he is the field officer; he has the responsibility to ensure all operations regarding arrest and all that are conducted in the usual manner."

Kabiru's escape has brought Ringim under renewed pressure just weeks before he is due to retire from the police force.

"I have directed the IG to carry out full investigation and even at

higher level, above that one, there will be another investigation to ascertain what led to the suspect's escape," Olubolade said, adding: "I have also directed that the officers involved and the personnel involved should be detained immediately."

Asked if the IG was facing the sack over the incident, the minister said, "Yes, anybody including myself."

Kabiru Sokoto's dramatic escape echoed President Jonathan's recent statement that the Boko Haram sect had infiltrated the government and security agencies.

When asked if this incident

now confirms the president's allegations, Olubolade said, "I cannot confirm that statement. What is important is all steps must be taken to re-arrest the suspect."

Also yesterday, the minister held a meeting with Ringim, and spokesman for the Police Affairs ministry James Odaudu said the IG was instructed to conduct full investigation of the incident.

A source said the police had arrested some people including one person in Bassa Local Government Area of Kogi State over Kabiru's escape.

The police yesterday tightened security at the Zone 7 com-

mand in Abuja, where Kabiru was first detained on Saturday. Spokesman for the command ASP Bernard Ukwunta said this was "part of the effort of the police to improve crime detection methods."

Kabiru Sokoto, a key suspect in the Madalla Christmas Day bombing, was arrested on Saturday at the Borno State Governor's Lodge, where he gained entry through a friend who was lodging there overnight.

The Borno State Government said he might have penetrated the lodge in order to attack Governor Kashim Shettima.

ONLY a few Nigerians truly know what their rights are, Prof. Bem Angwe, Executive Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission, (NHRC) said in Abuja on Wednesday.

Angwe said during a courtesy visit he paid to the Managing Director of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), Mrs. Oluremi Oyo, that the situation called for concern, but assured that the commission would enlighten the people.

He said: "Not so many Nigerians are aware of their rights; as such they don't even know the right place to go to when their rights are breached.

"We have to promote awareness and educate the people about their rights before we can enforce those rights.

"When your rights are breached you don't need to go to court every time, the commission can look into such infringements and even award compensation."

Angwe said the commission had demonstrated an expansive capacity to tackle issues of human rights in the country since its inception.

He said that since Nigeria signed into

the UN resolution of 2003, the "Paris Principles" which states that national human rights commissions of countries should be autonomous, Nigeria had joined the comity of nations determined to protect the rights of its citizens.

Angwe urged the media to partner with the commission to educate Nigerians on issues relating to the protection, promotion and the enforcement of their rights.

He said that his visit to NAN was to solicit for its corporation in achieving the goal of enlightenment.

In her address of welcome, Mrs Oyo, told Angwe that NAN was prepared to partner with the commission to enhance its success.

She said that as the major content provider for the Nigerian media and a formidable purveyor of news and information about Nigeria and Nigerians, NAN was the best place to seek such collaboration.

Oyo also told the rights commission boss that NAN was best positioned to partner with institutions of government or those of the private sector created to engender development, unity peace and progress of the country. (NAN)

Continued from page 1

Abubakar Magaji, former Water Resources commissioner Idris Azozo, former Health commissioner Dattijo Aliyu, and former senior special assistant to the governor on mobilization Mike Barde.

The former commissioners served during the tenure of then Governor Abdulkadir Kure, while Barde served during the first term of Governor Muazu Babangida Aliyu.

Police invited the ACN chieftains to the state command headquarters on Tuesday evening for interrogation over allegedly sponsoring miscreants to hijack last Wednesday's anti-fuel subsidy removal protest, which led to destruction of property mostly belonging to PDP stalwarts.

Since then, the suspects were in detention.

One of them, Dattijo Aliyu, told Daily Trust yesterday at the police command where they were being detained that their arrest was politically motivated because they were the perceived enemies of the government.

"Our names were forwarded to the police from the office of the state governor and equally ordered for our arrest," he said.

But Governor Aliyu denied being behind the arrests. He said yesterday when he received visiting state executive of the PDP that he did not order the arrest of any person, and that the security agencies were only carrying out their duties.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, ASP Richard Oguche, said the five suspects were arrested over an allegation in a petition that they sponsored the violence in Minna last week.

The ACN, through its National Secretary Lawal Shuaibu, yesterday condemned the arrests of the party leaders and demanded their immediate release. Shuaibu spoke after the meeting of the party's national executive in Ajoja.

Last Thursday, further violence occurred in the Niger State as two people were reported to have been killed by the police in Lambata town of Gawu Babangida Local Government Area during a fuel subsidy rally.

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By Misbahu Bashir & Abubakar Sadiq Isah

POLICE commissioner Zakari Biu was suspended from the force yesterday after an operation he led to investigate arrested Boko Haram

suspect Kabiru Sokoto ended in the escape of the suspect at Abaji, Abuja, on Sunday.

Kabiru Sokoto was captured at the Borno Governor's Lodge in Abuja on Saturday by a team of

police from the Zone 7 command, but he was rescued by a gang of youths at Abaji while he was being conveyed to a location there.

Biu, who is police commissioner in charge of investigation

at the command, was said to have led the operation.

A statement in Abuja yesterday by the Police Force Headquarters announced the escape of the suspect and the subsequent

suspension of a police commissioner but did not name the officer affected.

"The Nigeria Police Force wishes to confirm that a suspect
Continued on page 5

PHOTO: NAN



VEHICLES queue to refuel at the NNPC filling station after the weeklong strike in Abeokuta yesterday.

Subsidy hearing:

By Turaki A. Hassan

PETROLEUM minister Diezani Allison-Madueke

and Comptroller General of Customs Abdullahi Dikko. Inde yesterday gave conflicting testimonies over

petrol imports and subsidy payments during a hearing by a House of Representatives committee in Abuja.

The committee was holding its second day of public hearing to determine the extent of alleged multi-

billion naira corruption on the fuel subsidy regime. Allison-Madueke was the first to speak, saying

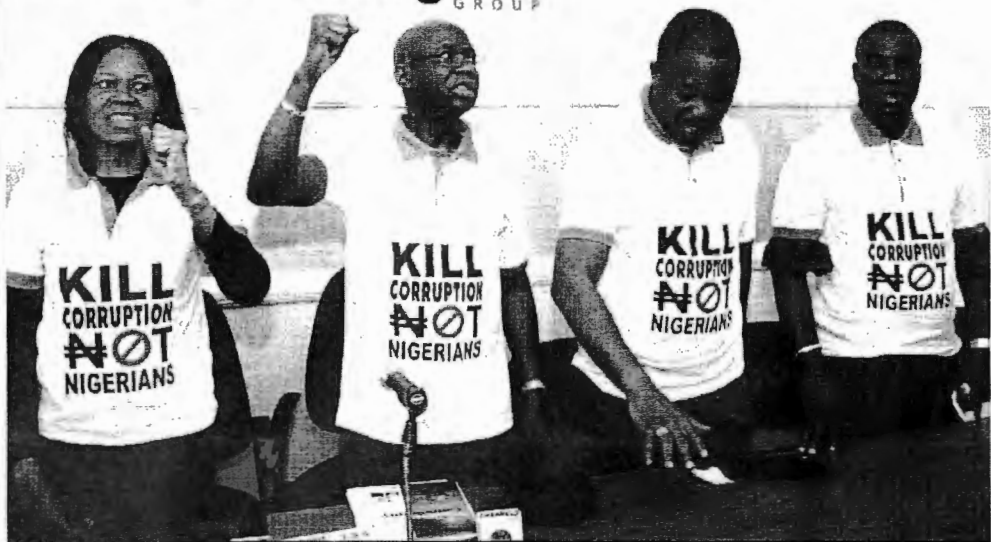
that the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation no longer imports petrol and
Continued on page 5

By Muldeen Olaniyi

THE Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC) has lauded the Federal Government as well as the organized labour for the resolution of their face-off over the removal of oil subsidy.

In a statement yesterday by its secretary, Alhaji Shittu Mohammed, IPAC also commended President Goodluck Jonathan for shifting grounds and announcing reduction of fuel price from N140 to N97 per litre. "The peaceful resolution of the crisis would further sharpen our democracy, and this explains that democracy is at work," the statement said. IPAC called on the labour to further channel their suggestions to the Justice Alfa Belgore committee to ensure the success of the policy.

"We of the IPAC will join both labour and government to further sensitise Nigerians on the importance of full deregulation in the downstream sector of our petroleum industry," it added.



FROM left: Dr. Joe Okei-Odunmakin, President, Campaign for Democracy (CD), Dr. Tunde Bakare, Convener, Save Nigeria Group (SNG), Comrade Yinka Odumakin, spokesperson, SNG and King Wasiu Ayinde Marshal (K-1) during their meeting with the press in Lagos, yesterday.

By John Chuks Azu

THE Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) yesterday threw its weight in support of the suspension of strike and protests by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and Trade Union Congress (TUC).

The NLC and TUC have embarked on strike to protest the government's withdrawal of fuel subsidy, which the NBA supported and asked lawyers to shun courts in solidarity. The NBA also urged lawyers to render free legal services to victims of brutality by security agents.

NBA President Joseph Bodurin Daudu (SAN) said the calling off of the strike will enable the labour unions to negotiate further with the government through the Justice Alfa Belgore-led committee set up to dialogue with it.

Continued from page 1

was arrested in a successful Police operation and was rescued from a team of Policemen detailed to carry out further investigation in the matter," force public relations officer DCP Oluosola Amore said in a statement.

"The suspect was handed over to a Commissioner of Police for further investigation and he consequently detailed his men to take the suspect to Abaji in furtherance of investigation.

"In the course of undertaking this important procedure, the Policemen on escorts with the suspect were attacked by the suspected sect gang members and in the process the suspect freed.

"The Police view this development as a serious negligence on the part of the Commissioner of Police and have since been queried and suspended him from duty.

"If a criminal case is established against him and his team, they will be prosecuted."

Kabiru Sokoto was arrested early Saturday morning during a police raid at the Borno Governor's Lodge in Asokoro, Abuja, where he sneaked in through a friend who was given accommodation to stay overnight. He was said to be taken along with a Flight Lieutenant of the Nigerian Air Force to the Zone 7 Headquarters of the Police in Abuja. The Borno State Government on Monday said Kabiru might have

penetrated the lodge in order to attack Governor Kashim Shettima.

Daily Trust exclusively reported yesterday that Kabiru was taken to Abaji on Sunday, where he is said to own a house, to allow police conduct search. But he escaped when a gang of youths blocked the way and created chaos.

How Kabiru settled in Abaji Kabiru Sokoto, who is married to one wife and has 3 children, came to reside at Abaji around March 2010 from Sokoto State, neighbours told Daily Trust yesterday.

When he came to Abaji, he first stayed at the home of a trader along the new market road.

A few days later he rented a

one-room apartment at Unguwar Asharawa in the area and moved in with his family.

Residents of the area said after Kabiru settled, he came to endear himself to the people in the area. He was considered as a generous man and a devoted Muslim cleric who often led the five daily prayers in a mosque at Anguwar Asharawa.

Later, Kabiru opened a kiosk and began selling provisions/cosmetics in the neighbourhood.

Sources said Kabiru relocated to Abaji after his house in Sokoto State was burnt in 2009 on suspicion that he was affiliated to the Boko Haram sect.

People in Abaji said Kabiru has a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics/Chemistry.

but was brought through Cotonou off shore."

Inde also said rather than "smuggling" as mentioned by the minister, what was happening was "diversion" because large vessels importing fuel supposedly to Nigeria do not reach the country's shores but were kept in territorial waters of Benin or Togo while smaller vessels ferry only a fraction of the fuel to Nigeria.

The Customs chief said apart from petrol, NNPC also imports crude oil to the Kaduna refinery.

"Kaduna refinery runs on imported crude not domestic and no duty is paid on that till date. NNPC imports it through Warri port and move it straight to Kaduna refinery," he said.

He said the then president Olusegun Obasanjo used presidential fiat and granted import waivers on all petroleum products since 2002 as a result of which all

imported fuels are exempted from duty taxes.

He said oil importers including the NNPC perpetrate fraud by keeping the "mother vessels" on Benin or Togo territorial waters and using smaller vessels to bring in the petroleum products.

Earlier, Mrs. Allison-Madueke said contrary to the popular belief, there was no group of oil importers who constitute themselves into a cabal.

"I am under oath therefore it will not be proper for me to speculate of the existence of cabal in the oil sector. It is not proper to criminalise certain group with one fell swoop just as we cannot criminalise the actual policy of subsidy itself.

"They are bona fide marketers even though there have been manipulations in the sector and we are looking into it aggressively, as we have made certain changes

since last year, until we are able to rout out those who corrupted the system to their advantage," she said.

The petroleum minister however, could not name those involved in "corrupting the system" when asked by House committee chairman Faruk Lawan (PDP, Kano).

On why subsidy funds rocketed from the budgeted N245 billion to N1.3 trillion, the minister said the N245 billion was only meant to service subsidy for the months of January-February 2011 as the government had planned to end the subsidy regime in March 2011 but was pressured to shelve that.

The petroleum minister also said the government was yet to arrive at exact amount of money spent on subsidising petrol as "we are still grappling with the figures." She added that it would take at least four months to finish

the computation.

Allison-Madueke said deduction of subsidy funds from source by the NNPC was lawful. "We have done nothing unconstitutional as a ministry since Appropriation Act defines that and section 80 subsection 3 of the 1999 constitution authorise us to deduct from source," she said.

She said the finance ministry authorises such deductions. But on Monday Finance Minister Mrs. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala denied authorising subsidy deductions.

When asked by committee members to give them assurance that NNPC will not embark on any illegal deductions again, Allison-Madueke said, "I am under oath I cannot give you assurance on this because the oath is bigger than the assurance."

The House committee hearing is scheduled to continue today.

Police commissioner Zakan Biu suspended

Continued from page 1

that only private importers were involved.

She also said part of the fraud in the system was smuggling out of petrol on which government had already paid subsidy.

But when it was his turn to speak, Inde, who was represented by the Deputy Comptroller General in charge of Accounts and Tariff Julius Ndubuisi Nwogu, said contrary to the minister's assertion, NNPC was still importing petrol because he had possession of a manifest that showed that the corporation brought petrol into the country in December.

The Customs official displayed a copy of a document showing that NNPC imported petrol for December 2011 which was discharged at Calabar port, "and was solely imported by NNPC but we don't know the country of origin

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up inflation — Bureau

By Muideen Olaniyi

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan yesterday told politicians planning to stand for elections in 2015 to stop holding strategy meetings for now because their actions are

distracting present office holders.

The President, who was speaking at the opening of the PDP national executive committee meeting in Abuja, warned that officials in his government would be fired if they are found to be

involved in meetings to plan for the next general elections.

"Let me plead with us that.... those who are interested in the general elections in 2015, I have noticed that some people have just started some meetings, it is too

early to hold meetings. It is too early to hold meetings," he said

"INEC normally declares it open. The idea is that people who were elected into offices as governors and President be given sometime to work. In a situation

whereby a governor has not even stayed for a year, the President has not stayed for a year, you started harassing people for 2015 is another way of saying everything is election. There must be

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PEOPLE have to raise their hands up whenever they walk by security posts in Maiduguri, as these pedestrians did yesterday shortly after explosions in the city.

From Hamza Idris & Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

THE Joint Task Force in Borno State said it killed eight Boko Haram fighters in a shoot-out at the Baga Fish Market in Maiduguri yesterday.

But witnesses said many more people, most of them bystanders, were killed in the shooting.

The gun duel was preceded by at least seven explosions in and around the market. Trader Mohammed Sabiu said more

than 20 people were killed in the shooting and that he had seen three Hilux trucks loaded with dead bodies moving out of the market.

"But the fact is, not all the people shot are Boko Haram members; I am sure there

are civilians," he said.

Witnesses said trouble started at about noon when an explosion rocked the market just when it was filled with people.

"There was a heavy blast behind the

Continued on page 5

Immigration: 99 passengers intercepted by military

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) has said it did not receive a trailer 'loaded with 500 people' from military personnel of the 7th Guards Battalion of the Nigerian Army. The Immigration Service made the comment in response to a report that the military has intercepted truck with 500 passengers in Abuja and handed over them to immigration service.

An immigration official who did not want his name mentioned told *Daily Trust* yesterday that the actual number was only 99 persons which were brought to Immigration Service headquarters.

He said the military later decided to take them back for what they described as "further investigation."

"Initially the Military personnel, not police, came to Immigration with only 99 persons and they decided to take them back with them saying they did not finish their investigations. They were youths and the number was not up to 500 it is not possible for a single trailer to carry 500 people at once," the official said.

Meanwhile, a source told *Daily Trust* last night that the passengers are still being held at the Polo Club under dehumanising condition.

20 killed as JTF pursues Boko Haram

Continued from page 1

Baga Market, and many other blasts followed, and this caused commotion as traders and customers scattered," Hannatu Abu, a fish seller, said.

Spokesman for the JTF, Lieutenant Colonel Hassan Mohammed, told journalists in a teleconference that some suspected Boko Haram members stormed the Baga Market and shot three civilians.

"The men of the JTF immediately came to the rescue and engaged the sect members. The three civilians did not die...we rushed them to a hospital for treatment," Mohammed said.

"Our men succeeded in detonating 3 explosives at the market and killed 8 members of the sect. Large number of IEDs (improvised explosive devices) and other weapons has been recovered. The whole market has been cordoned off and we are currently searching the market to track down the fleeing members," he said.

He added none of the members of the JTF was injured or killed.

The BBC News reported on its website yesterday that up to 30 people were killed in the shooting.

Reuters news agency quoted a nurse at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital saying at least 20 corpses from the fighting had been delivered there.

"I am not sure of the exact number but I saw more than 20 bodies," he said, adding that most were wearing traditional Islamic Kaftans worn by men in the area. None were in military uniforms.



FROM left: Vice President Namadi Sambo; PDP Ag. National Chairman Alh. Abubakar Baraje, and President Goodluck Jonathan, during the PDP 58TH National Executive Committee (NEC) Meeting in Abuja yesterday.

Jonathan bans 2015 moves

Continued from page 1

time to work. "At the federal level if you are holding a political office and I notice that you are involved in meetings for 2015 election, I will ask you to leave and go and hold your meetings, because that meeting is too early.

"Government must not be distracted. Nigerians are interested on what we put on ground for them, not how many elections we conduct and we win."

Ahead of the 2015 elections, there are politicians who are believed to have already started planning towards contesting for certain offices.

Some governors want to vie for president, while there are senators and ministers angling to be governors.

Jonathan himself is believed to be interested in standing for a second term even though he had made statements ahead of the

2011 elections to the effect that he was going for a single term only. At least one of the groups that campaigned for him in the previous election, Neighbour to Neighbour, is still very active, mobilising support for his policies especially petrol subsidy removal.

Yesterday's 58th emergency meeting of the Peoples Democratic Party's NEC was convened to ratify dates for the congresses and convention that would lead to the emergence of a new set of leadership for the ruling party.

The national convention to select national officers is scheduled for March 24, while the tenure of the present set of officers due to expire on March 8 has been extended to the end of the month.

PDP national publicity secretary Rufai Ahmed Alkali, who announced the NEC resolutions to journalists, said ward congresses would hold on March 3; local government area congresses on March 10; state congresses on

March 17; and zonal congresses on March 21.

Processes of handover to new officers at all levels are to hold between March 26 and 31, while aggrieved aspirants at various congresses could appeal within 48 hours after each congress.

Alkali said earlier arrangements to hold the congresses this month were postponed because of the Supreme Court ruling on tenure of five governors and the consequent governorship elections in four of those states.

NEC mandated the National Working Committee of the party to constitute national convention and congresses planning committees to oversee the exercises.

A regular meeting of the national executive committee has been scheduled to hold on Wednesday next week.

Earlier, Jonathan said ahead of the congresses and convention, stakeholders "must insist that people are elected democrati-

cally" and should "begin to move away from the culture of imposition."

He urged party leadership to insist on discipline, saying "irrespective of our status in the society and for whatever offices we are holding, if the party doesn't have the courage to discipline its members, of course some people will begin to behave as if they contested elections as independent candidates."

"I plead that the unity of the party and the cooperation of all of us is paramount and we should not fight ourselves because it will not translate to dividend of democracy, because for PDP to be regarded as a party that has succeeded that means that the governors will perform, the President and the states will perform. What we want are roads, good roads, health facilities, power and so on, not people wearing boxing gloves and doing shadow boxing in different forms," he added.

Ex-Nigerian minister appointed ECOWAS commissioner

FORMER Prime Minister of Burkina Faso Kadré Désiré Ouédraogo, who was appointed at the 40th ordinary session of the authority of Heads of State and Government, will serve as President of the ECOWAS Commission for a four-year non-renewable tenure. Ouédraogo replaces James Victor Gbeho (Ghana)

The authority also endorsed the appointment of Dr. Toga Gayewea McIntosh, Vice President (Liberia); former Nigerian Minister for Women Affairs Mrs. Salamatu Husseni Suleiman, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (Nigeria); Mrs. Khadi Ramatu Serey, Commissioner for Administration and Finance (Sierra Leone); and Dr. Lapodini Gbete Abouga, Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources (Togo). Others are: Mr. Ahmed Hamid, Commissioner for Trade, Customs, Industry Mining, Free Movement and Tourism (Niger); Dr. Ibrahim Bocar Ba, Commissioner for Macro Economic Policy, (Mali); and Mr. Ebrima Njite, Commissioner for Infrastructure (The Gambia). The ECOWAS leaders also elected President of Côte d'Ivoire Alassane Dramane Ouattara as chairman of the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government for a one-year mandate. He replaced President Goodluck Jonathan of Nigeria.

From Hamisu Kabir Matazu, Damaturu

A wild lion went on rampage yesterday killing men and over 30 livestock near a forest between Gulani and Gujba local government areas of Yobe State.

Yobe State Commissioner for Environment, Dr Ahmed Wakil Sarki, confirmed the attack adding that a team from the Wildlife Department in the Ministry will hunt for the lion tomorrow (today) morning.

"Yes, the lion killed 2 people and over thirty livestock. But we are making effort catch the animal alive or hunt him down by tomorrow morning to avert further destruction," he said

Wakil said that necessary procedure would be taken to see that wild life rules are not violated while bringing the lion under control.

"Our guns have been submitted to the SSS due to the security challenges in Yobe. But we wrote them requesting for the release of all our equipment to enable

us carry out the operation by tomorrow," he added.

Wakil added that the lion was also said to have killed some animals few kilometres away from Damaturu, the Yobe state capital.

He said a similar incident happened four years ago when some elephants went on rampage in the state.

Babayo Maikiyo of Mahadiyya Village of Gujba local government told *Daily Trust* that a group of 15 hunters led by their chief, Basse Balle, went to search for the lion last night but did not succeed.

A wild life expert told *Daily Trust* that the lion normally operates within the radius of 40 kilometres per hour and said it could now be within the forest of Damaturu, just 30 kilometres away from Gujba town.

"We advise government to do something urgent before it gets out of control, because something most have provoked this lion to start this destructions," he said.

Wada asks court to dismiss suit against him

By Atika Balal

KOGI State Governor, Idris Wada yesterday asked a Federal High Court in Abuja to dismiss a suit filed against him seeking to invalidate his swearing in as governor.

Wada said the plaintiff, Oyebole Makinde, lacks the locus standi to institute the action because he is neither entitled to take the governorship oath of office nor was he a candidate in the election that gave rise to the taking of oath of office.

In the application filed through his Counsel, Chris Uche (SAN), Wada averred that the court lacks territorial jurisdiction to entertain the matter as it relates to an oath of office taken in Lokoja, Kogi State since there is a Federal High Court in Lokoja.

Makinde is asking that Wada be restrained from parading himself as governor.

He also asked the court to quash Wada's inauguration on ground that it was not constitutional.

Mentioned as defendants alongside Wada are the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) and acting governor of the state, Abdullahi Bello.

Yesterday at the resumed hearing, Makinde's counsel, Alex Izion (SAN), told the court that they had just been served with Wada's response in court and would need time to go through it.

Meanwhile, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) brought a motion for joinder as a defendant in the suit.

The party said being the platform that nominated Wada for the December 3 governorship election, it is a necessary party in the suit.

Wada also brought an application seeking for a stay of further proceeding on ground that the PDP has filed an application at the Supreme Court asking for the interpretation of the January 27th judgment.

The case has been adjourned till February 14 for hearing of all the preliminary applications, motion for joinder and motion for stay of further proceedings.



SOMETIMES it becomes chaotic as people try to use ATMs in Kano because banks operate only between 9am and 2pm daily in the wake of violence in the city

'Boko Haram is killing North's economy'

Continued from page 1

in Kano, you threaten the foundation of economic and social well-being of that region."

The minister said the region deserved peace and stability as "it is lagging behind in infrastructure and economic development."

The bombings last month in Kano left at least 185 people dead, and opened wave of further deadly attacks on police posts in the city, crippling businesses.

Banks are still to reopen in Kano, four weeks after the major strike, which was the deadliest yet claimed by Boko Haram.

"It makes no sense to attack innocent people and destroy the North," Maku said.

Days after the Kano attacks, the sect threatened to unleash

similar mayhem in Sokoto, allegedly because its followers were arrested there.

Maku said yesterday, "Sokoto is the spiritual headquarters of Islam in Nigeria and the group claims they want to attack the city. In what way does that help Islam, or progress and development of the region if that is what they are fighting for?"

President Jonathan last week said government would dialogue with Boko Haram if the sect comes out and clearly states its demands.

Maku yesterday reiterated this position, saying government was ready to enter into dialogue with the sect members if only they could show up and offer plausible reasons for their action.

On Tuesday, the NTA aired a video of purported Boko Haram

men naming people through whom talks could be opened with the sect, but a man claiming to be spokesman for the group later disowned the clip saying it was crafted by security agencies.

Asked to comment on the video yesterday, Maku said, "It could be true, it could be false. It takes more than having names published or broadcast by a group to establish the veracity of these claims."

He assured that government would continue to deploy resources and develop capacity "to contain further attacks."

"A lot of arrests are being made, about 14 so far. The Federal Government is investing resources in intelligence and we are beginning to see results on a consistent basis.

"More security personnel are also being deployed to troubled spots and just recently, the Vice-President met with all Northern governors to forge a way on the issue," he said.

Maku called on the Northern leaders, elders and other stakeholders to assist in bringing about a lasting peace.

Meanwhile, the minister said the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has approved the building of its multi-sectoral office in Abuja.

Maku said the Federal Executive Council received a report from Education Minister Professor Ruqayyatu Ahmed Rufai on UNESCO's decision which also elected Nigeria into its executive council for the next four years.

NAICOM to partner FRSC

By Misbahu Bashir

CHIEF Executive Officer of the National Insurance Commission Fola Daniel yesterday said they will work together with the Federal Road Safety Corps to improve road management systems.

Daniel, who visited the FRSC headquarters, said the Commission is presently working on a proposal to secure legislation for certain percentage of premium accrued from motor vehicle insurance to be set aside for road safety funding in Nigeria.

He said the Commission has developed a special project named 'Market Development and Restructuring Initiative' (MDRI) as a vehicle which will enhance the implementation of compulsory insurances in Nigeria.

Responding, the FRSC Corps Marshal and Chief Executive, Oisita Chidoka described motor vehicle insurance as an index for safer road conduct among Nigerian drivers.

Why I accepted Jonathan's job offer, by Ribadu

Continued from page 1

tory of public service, and if we cast an honest look to the recent protests in the wake of the oil subsidy removal, it will be clear to all that the biggest single victory Nigerians scored was to put the question of corruption squarely back on the top of our national policy agenda.

"Regardless of our affiliations, our differences, and our engagements, it is at least safe to say that we have a national consensus on the deadly impact of corruption on our march to greatness, and on the capacity of our people, particularly the youth, to earn a decent, promising, life.

"If we would effectively isolate and defeat this scourge therefore, we must all see it as a preeminent national security threat. We must see it as a war within our borders, a war that has assumed a sys-

temic and endemic character, but to which all must now urgently enlist with our different capacities, or accept to all go down with the ship.

"At this point in my life, it is also easy to answer the honest question if it is inappropriate to invest my modest talents and capabilities to my country what I have readily offered many foreign communities, from sister nations in Africa to far flung places like Afghanistan. This, if nothing, makes my decision very personal, freeing all affiliations [social and political] of complicity, but investing the decision also with the unique character that when people reach evaluations in favour of their larger communities, it doesn't necessarily blemish their moral identity.

"This therefore is a national call. In answering it, I go back to the template of my own parents

who taught me that honest public service is the greatest asset a person can offer his community. It was the same lesson I learnt from his biographical example when my own father returned home as a federal legislator in Lagos to take job as a local council official in Yola—it is all about the community, and it is sometimes bigger than our personal egos."

But spokesman for ACN Lai Mohammed in a statement said the party had a "long-standing position barring members of the party from accepting appointments from the PDP-led Federal Government.... Any member of our party who takes such an appointment does so in his personal capacity."

Mohammed said Ribadu's appointment amounted to poaching of credible personalities from the opposition and "smacks of underhand tactics aimed at deci-

rating the opposition."

"There is also the possibility that booby traps will be deliberately set for such credible personalities to guarantee their failure in their stated assignment, after which they will be ridiculed and dumped," Mohammed said.

He said the party was not sure whether the appointment was done in good faith or was merely aimed at getting "credible people" to launder the government's image.

Mohammed said, however, that as a leading opposition party ACN will "continue to play its role in ensuring good governance and contributing to nation building through its regular constructive criticisms which, hitherto and unfortunately so, have fallen on deaf ears."

Daily Trust learnt that Ribadu is at present in Afghanistan undertaking a United Nations job.

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TRUST IS A BURDEN

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THE house where a Boko Haram leader was picked at Mubi Close, Kaduna, on Wednesday.

From Isa Sa'udu, Kaduna & Hamza Idris, Maiduguri

A Boko Haram leader arrested early Wednesday morning in Kaduna had regularly visited the hideout where he was found just meters away from a police sta-

tion, neighbours told *Daily Trust* yesterday.

This revelation came hours before the sect said in a teleconference in Maiduguri yesterday that the captured man was head of enlightenment Abu Dardaa, and not spokesman Abul Qaqa as claimed by security officials. The sect also said the man

was trailed and arrested after they were deceived into engaging in dialogue with government representatives.

A witness to the pre-dawn operation in which the man was arrested said State Security Service officers stormed the area at about 2am and headed straight to a rented

home at Mubi Close, off Maiduguri Road in Kaduna, where they arrested the man reported to be Abul Qaqa, another man and a woman.

The witness said he came out from his nearby room to urinate by the street when

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By Yuraki A. Hassan

THE Niger Delta Development Commission

(NDDC) budgeted a whopping sum of N1.3 billion on fumigation of its premises and another N2.2bn to

organise seminars in the 2011 fiscal year, according to details of the commission's budget approved by

the National Assembly. President Goodluck Jonathan presented the commission's N250 bil-

lion budget for 2011 fiscal year to the legislature late in December, blaming the delay on leadership tussle

in the NDDC. The National Assembly speedily passed the budget

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roads contract review

Abuja was inflated to the tune of

Continued from page 1

after increasing it to N261 billion. Details of the budget obtained by Daily Trust in Abuja showed that N1.3 billion was provided for the fumigation of offices in the commission's headquarters in Port Harcourt and other offices elsewhere.

The NDDC headquarters is an eight-storey building, but Daily Trust could not confirm the number of offices in the structure.

Also, the budget provided N1.2 billion for "presidential project monitoring," which an insider said is meant to be spent on hosting government officials who come visiting the NDDC offices and project sites.

The commission also got N1.8 billion to spend on traveling; N603 million for staff training; N550 million for international conferences; and N759 million for project consultancy.

Vehicle running cost got N794 million and N174 million was provided for vehicle maintenance.

Payment of insurance by the commission gulped N550 million; N550 million is for donations; N638 million for security; and N682 million for hotel bills.

Other expenditure are N308



FUMIGATING the NDDC headquarters premises and other offices was allocated more than N1.3 billion in the 2011 budget.

before the lawmakers. FCT Minister Senator Bala Mohammed said the discovery followed the review of the project by a committee of experts, which examined the roads' designs and measurements.

The experts, he added, were still working on the project and the Federal Government would issue a white paper upon the completion of the committee's work.

The Minister said "Mr. President has been talking about the cost of projects and immediately he read about the Senate committee's oversight tour of some project sights, he ordered a probe into the projects.

Right now, the committee has saved the government of N38 billion."

Chairman of the committee, Senator Smart Adeyemi, said the committee would soon summon all major contractors operating in the FCT to answer charges on the usage of onsite materials including granite and laterite.

How Boko Haram chief holed up in Kaduna

Continued from page 1

he saw armed men in mufti, who bawled at him to lay down.

The man that is being suspected to be Abul Qaqa is a quiet man and nobody in this area associates with him. He quietly comes

A security source told Daily Trust yesterday that the arrested Boko Haram chieftain was being interrogated in Abuja, and has

key government functionaries on the issue of dialogue. Indeed, he had discussed with some officials but unknown to him, shortly

“Th
for staff

which is very close to the house to ease myself when the SSS officials made me to lay down on the ground for a long time.

He added: "Sometimes people in my area come to my house where Abul Qaqa was arrested are

name of dialogue' teleconference with journalists in Maiduguri, claiming that the

some security agents to trail him. Despite the risk and dangers involved, Darda had not

I didn't know what was happening those men were SSS officials. My initial thought was that I had been

the owner has died long ago and some of his children now own the house. I know that a tenant to stay in the house without coming in contact with the owners.

Abu Dardaa and not the spokesman for the sect. The caller said Abu Dardaa is head of the *Lagina* (department) of public enlightenment for the sect.

without confrontation, just the way Dardaa was picked," he said. "We initially thought that the much thought about dialogue was true and we actually resolved that after the initial meeting, we would send five representatives to stand for us.

million for publicity, N160 million for legal expenses, N44 million for entertainment and N394 million for community relations.

Telephone bills got N402 million, N70 million voted for project monitoring and N361 million for corporate affairs.

Also, N2.865 billion is set aside for the headquarters of the agency without specifying the expenditure items.

NDDC was set up in 2001 as an interventionist agency to help address the alleged underdeveloped of the oil rich Niger Delta region.

But it has not met up expectations of people in the region despite receiving hundreds of billions of naira annually.

The agency has also been dogged by in-fighting, boardroom squabble and unproven allegations of corruption.

NDDC was under the Presidency until the creation of the Ministry of Niger Delta in 2009, when the commission was transferred to the ministry.

searched the house, they brought out two men and a woman and it was at that point that they asked me to go back into my room, the witness said.

All transactions about the house are done through a caretaker," he said.

He said Abu Dardaa was trailed and picked by operatives of the SSS shortly after he had an interaction with some "key functionaries of the Federal Government on the issue of dialogue."

and none of our members could be released for dialogue and without confrontation, just the way Dardaa was picked," he said.

He said the SSS men did not arrest any other person in the area apart from those three.

The resident added that people of the area are suspecting that the woman is the host of Abul Qaqa.

He said Abu Dardaa was trailed and picked by operatives of the SSS shortly after he had an interaction with some "key functionaries of the Federal Government on the issue of dialogue."

and none of our members could be released for dialogue and without confrontation, just the way Dardaa was picked," he said.

Mubi Close is a serene area having mainly rented rooms.

"The woman has many younger brothers, therefore it is difficult to differentiate who is what. Apart from that, many people visit that woman," he said.

He said Abu Dardaa was trailed and picked by operatives of the SSS shortly after he had an interaction with some "key functionaries of the Federal Government on the issue of dialogue."

and none of our members could be released for dialogue and without confrontation, just the way Dardaa was picked," he said.

Another resident of the area, who also preferred anonymity, said he knows the woman that was arrested with Abul Qaqa as a divorcee.

Kaduna State Director of SSS, Mr Yomi Zamba, did not answer calls made to him to seek his comments over the arrest. He also did not reply to a text message sent to him.

He said Abu Dardaa was trailed and picked by operatives of the SSS shortly after he had an interaction with some "key functionaries of the Federal Government on the issue of dialogue."

and none of our members could be released for dialogue and without confrontation, just the way Dardaa was picked," he said.

"I know the woman. It was her former husband who brought her to that house. I know (the husband) as a staff of the Kaduna refinery. When he divorced the woman, she remained in the house.

Also, spokeswoman for the SSS headquarters in Abuja did not answer her calls yesterday, and no government official was immediately available for comments.

He said Abu Dardaa was trailed and picked by operatives of the SSS shortly after he had an interaction with some "key functionaries of the Federal Government on the issue of dialogue."

and none of our members could be released for dialogue and without confrontation, just the way Dardaa was picked," he said.

"There was the time I had a business transaction with the woman. She asked me to bring some materials for her that somebody promised to link her up with a top government official. When I brought the materials, I realised that there was a foul play and that was how I abandoned that business.

But on Wednesday, Borno State Director of SSS was quoted to have told the Associated Press news agency that Abul Qaqa was arrested after being tracked through signals sent by his cell phone.

He said Abu Dardaa was trailed and picked by operatives of the SSS shortly after he had an interaction with some "key functionaries of the Federal Government on the issue of dialogue."

and none of our members could be released for dialogue and without confrontation, just the way Dardaa was picked," he said.

"The other man that was arrested with the woman is a Christian but I learnt that he is the husband of the woman's sister.

Based on agreement and mutual understanding, we purposely sent Abu Dardaa to Kaduna to discuss with some

and none of our members could be released for dialogue and without confrontation, just the way Dardaa was picked," he said.

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From Hamza Idris, Maiduguri

THE State Security Service yesterday said it captured the purported spokesman for Boko Haram sect Abul Qaqa, who frequently made statements to the press after

attacks by the group.

Security sources said Qaqa's arrest is the biggest catch yet in the bid to tame the sect, which had been waging a campaign of deadly bombings and shootings in the country for nearly two years.

An official of the SSS told *Daily Trust* that the man, an indigene of Kogi State who uses a nom de guerre, was captured on Tuesday in Kaduna.

Borno State director of the SSS, Ahmed Abdullahi, told the Associated Press news

agency last night that officers tracked down Abul Qaqa through signals sent out by his mobile phone.

The agency later flew him to Abuja for further questioning.

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PHOTO: NAN



ACTING Inspector-General of Police, Mr Mohammed Abubakar, addressing senior police officers at a meeting in Abuja yesterday. With him is AIG Zone 2 Lagos, Mr Suleman Fakal.

By Francis Okeke

TEACHERS in public universities yesterday called off their two-month old

strike, following agreements reached with the Federal Government over their demands.

Lecturers would resume

work starting from today, president of the Academic Staff Union of Universities Ukachukwu Awuzie told journalists in Abuja after

a meeting of the union's national executive.

ASUU had been on strike since December 4 over disagreements with

the Federal Government regarding improved funding of universities and better welfare for lecturers.

Awuzie said the deci-

sion to suspend the strike was taken after the union collated advice and deliberated extensively on same

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By John Chuks Azu

THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has requested an Appeal Court, Abuja Division to transfer the fraud charges against former Speaker House of Representatives Dimeji Bankole and his ex-Deputy Bayero Nafada to another court.

In two separate processes of Notice of Appeal filed with the Court Registrar and made available to Daily Trust yesterday, the EFCC is asking the Appeal Court to set aside the ruling of the lower court and send the case for retrial before another High Court judge.

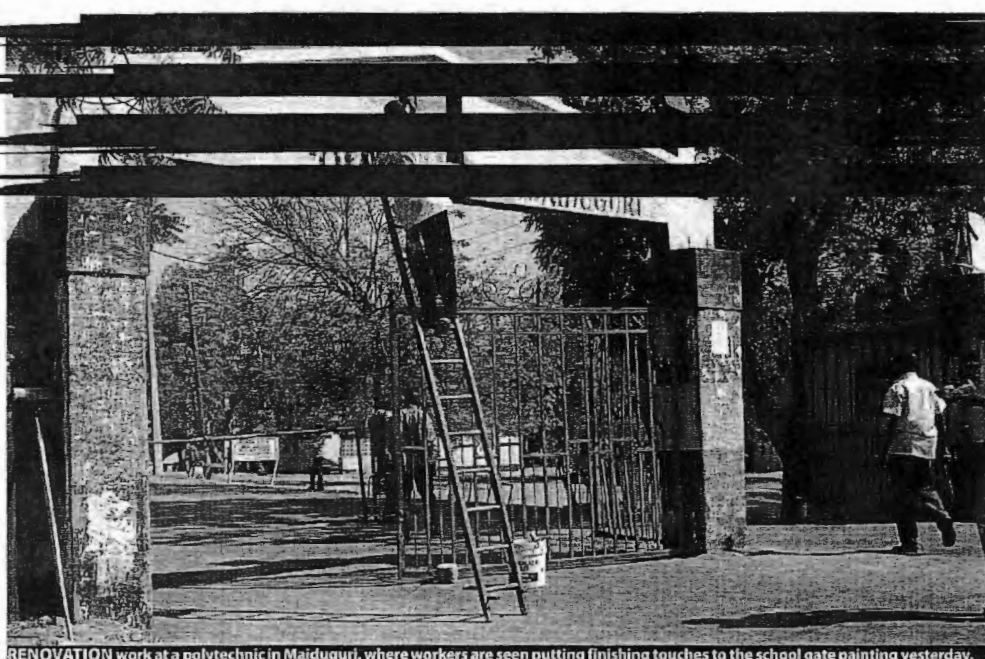
The anti-graft agency further said the Abuja High Court erred in law in granting the prayers as contained in the accused persons' no-case submission of January 23. Justice Suleiman Belgore had on Tuesday ruled that the prosecution failed to make a prima facie case against Bankole and Nafada.

The judge further held that the ex-principal lawmakers were not entrusted with the accounts of the House being non signatories to the account like the Clerk and Accountant.

But in the appeal, EFCC counsel Festus Keyamo argued that the prosecution established necessary ingredients of the offences of conspiracy, criminal breach of trust, theft as contained in the 17 counts charge.

Keyamo says of Bankole, "Even though the accused person was not a signatory to the House of Representatives' Account, so long as he was an approving authority in respect of those accounts, then he was definitely entrusted with the accounts."

Bankole and Nafada were arraigned in June, 2011 over alleged misappropriation of N40 billion through bank loans which was used to increase remunerations and running costs for members between August 2010 and May 2011.



RENOVATION work at a polytechnic in Maiduguri, where workers are seen putting finishing touches to the school gate painting yesterday.

Boko Haram spokesman Abul Qaqa captured

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None of the officials who spoke said specifically how they confirmed that the arrested man was Abul Qaqa.

"We are still taking to him. Since 'Abul Qaqa' is a pseudonym for the Boko Haram spokesman, we want to be sure of who we have with us. But we have been on his trail for months now. He's been changing locations and contacts," a source in the SSS said.

Another security source said: "It is a landmark feat that has been achieved through collaboration with various stakeholders. Qaqa is a senior member of the Shura (Supreme Council) of the sect and his arrest is probably the biggest ever made by security forces since after the death of leader of the sect Mohammed Yusuf in 2009."

A Boko Haram follower who

called journalists in Maiduguri yesterday but did not give his name confirmed the arrest of Qaqa, whom he said is one of their leaders.

"Malam was picked yesterday," the man said, referring to Qaqa. "Some security officials traced the house where he stayed and picked him. There was no exchange of gunshots or any scuffle between our members and the security agents."

He added: "We have no specific message for the world now until we hear from our spiritual leader, Malam Abubakar Shekau."

Daily Trust learnt that Abul Qaqa has been a close companion of sect leader Shekau.

He announced himself as acting spokesman for Boko Haram sometime last year, when he said he was standing in for the substantive spokesman Abu Zaid,

most likely also a pseudonym.

Qaqa served as a go-between between Boko Haram leaders and the media, issuing claims of responsibility typically the same day as attacks.

He first came to limelight when he announced that the sect was responsible for the UN House suicide bombing in Abuja in August. His predecessor Abu Zaid was the one who announced the sect's claim to bombing the Police Force Headquarters earlier in June.

Abul Qaqa went on to announce Boko Haram's responsibility for other attacks in Maiduguri, Yobe and most recently Kano, as well as the Christmas Day bombing at Madalla, Niger State.

Last week, he gave an interview to the Guardian newspaper of Britain, in which he dismissed President Jonathan's statement

asking the sect to come out for dialogue.

The last time Abul Qaqa spoke to journalists was on Saturday when he issued threats to attack Sokoto unless their members detained there were released.

He announced that the sect had written letters to the Sultan of Sokoto, speaker of the House of Representatives and the acting governor of Sokoto State, notifying them of the plans to attack the city.

Last year, a court convicted a supposed spokesman for Boko Haram, Aliyu Konduga, who apparently had only a loose affiliation with the group.

The sect denounced him, but he went on to implicate Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume, who is now standing trial over alleged links with the group. Ndume denied the charges, and he is due to appear in court in Abuja today.

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from members across the country.

He said the union's executive met in Abuja yesterday where they discussed the demands that led to the strike and the actions taken by government so far, and they decided to suspend the industrial action.

Among the demands, he said, were "funding requirements for revitalising the

Nigerian universities, Federal Government assistance to state universities, progressive increase of annual budgetary allocation to education to 26% between 2009 and 2020, earned allowances, amendment of the pension/retirement age of academics on the professorial cadre from 65 to 70 years and the establishment of the pension fund administrator."

Other demands were "reinstatement of prematurely dissolved governing councils, transfer of Federal Government landed property to universities, setting up of research and development units by companies operating in Nigeria and teaching and research equipment provision to our laboratories and classrooms."

He said during the period of the strike, government and ASUU engaged in series of dialogue and discussions aimed at addressing these issues.

As a result of these discussions, he said, government communicated to ASUU its position via a letter dated January 24.

With regards to funding, he said "government reaffirms its commitment to the revitalisation of Nigerian universities through budgetary and non-budgetary

sources of funds. Government will immediately stimulate the process with the sum of N100 billion and will build this up to a yearly sum of N400 billion in the next three years."

Awuzie, who was flanked by executives of the union, said the interventions will be based on prioritised needs.

Also to be captured by the special intervention is a progressive increase of annual budgetary allocation to education to 26% between 2009 and 2020 and the acceptance in principle by government to pay earned academic allowances. ASUU said there was an implementation monitoring committee that will propose practical and sustainable ways of paying the allowances which will produce a report in 60 days.

Part of the agreement also says

government would direct universities to support internal staff development of all those not covered under the Tertiary Education Trust Fund intervention.

On the amendment of the pension and retirement age of academics on the professorial cadre from 65 to 70 years, Awuzie said as soon as the legislative procedures for the bill were concluded, President Jonathan would assent to it not later than the end of this month.

On the establishment of a pension fund administrator, "government directed the IMC to take all necessary steps to register NUPEMCO within three months. Where the IMC has difficulties, it should refer the matter to the government for necessary action," he said.

With regards to the transfer

of landed property to the universities, he said "universities shall form a University Property Holding Company which shall, among other things, participate in the acquisition, management and concession of government properties."

Awuzie said that government undertook to reinstate the governing councils of various universities on or before February 12, but may make changes in external membership where it deemed necessary and that the tenure of the councils reinstated would end in February 2013 because they were set up in 2009 for a four-year term.

"In order to ensure effective overall monitoring of the implementation of the FGN/ASUU agreement, government shall meet with the expanded IMC on quarterly basis to assess progress," he said.

DAILY TRUST



FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2012 NIGERIA TRUST IS A BURDEN

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KABIRU Umar escaped from police custody at Abaji on Sunday.

● Police Place N50m reward on Kabiru Sokoto

● Senate summons Ringim

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Misbahu Bashir

THE Police yesterday placed a reward of N50 million on the alleged Christmas Day bombing mastermind, as pressure intensified on the Force to find Kabiru Umar who dramatically escaped from custody on Sunday.

A public notice issued yesterday in Abuja by the Force Headquarters said Umar (aka Kabiru Sokoto) "has been declared wanted by the Nigeria Police Force in connection with cases of bombing and national disturbances experienced across the northern states of the federation, especially the bombing of a church at Madalla, Niger State, which resulted into wanton destruction of lives and properties."

In a statement, Force Public Relations Officer DCP Oluwola Amore said Kabiru Umar hails from Biu, Borno State, and was last known to be residing at Bulletin Quarters, Abaji, FCT. He is aged 28 years, fair in complexion and speaks English, Hausa and Arabic languages fluently.

The Christmas Day bombing at Madalla, claimed by the Boko Haram sect,

killed dozens of people, many of them churchgoers.

"Anybody who has useful information that will lead to the arrest of the above named suspect should please report to the nearest police station nationwide and such informant will handsomely be rewarded

“The suspected Christmas Day bombing mastermind escaped from police custody on Sunday

with the sum of N50 million," Amore added.

The wanted notice came on the day embattled Inspector General of Police Hafiz Ringim was expected to reply to a query issued to him by Police Affairs Minister Caleb Oluwalade, asking him to explain within 24 hours how the suspect escaped.

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From Femi Akinola & Nurudeen Oyewole, Lagos

POLICE in Lagos yesterday fired teargas at hundreds of

protestors marching against the presence of troops in the city in the aftermath of national strike and demonstration over petrol subsidy

removal.

Yesterday's protest was organised by some eminent personalities, among them legal luminary Prof.

Ben Nwabueze, former presidential hopeful Tunji Braithwaite, former Finance minister Kalu Idika Kalu and Muelim

leader Sheikh Abdurrahman Amad.

The organisers and other people who participated in the demonstration

were attacked by the police and in the process one protester fainted from inhaling tear gas.

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Appeal court gets 90 justices

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE Court of Appeal is now to have 90 justices up from 70, Senate has approved.

Presenting report on the matter yesterday, Chairman Senate Committee on Judiciary and Human Rights, Senator Umaru Dahiru (PDP, Sokoto) said the move is necessitated by increase in the divisions of the Appeal Court.

He said "the request to further amend the Court of Appeal Act was predicated on the fact there was an increase in the number of Courts and failure to increase the number of justices may pose a threat to the health of justices based on heavy workload."

"With this amendment, the number of Justices will now be five as against three Justices we currently have per Division of the Court except Lagos, Abuja and Enugu Divisions that would be presided over by 10 Justices due to heavy workload."

With adoption of the report, Dahiru said the issue of not forming quorum during sittings would be reduced to enhance quick dispensation of justice.

Meanwhile, Senate has suspended plenary sittings for two weeks recess to enable committees more time for budget consideration.

Sokoto ANPP chairman sent to jail

CHAIRMAN of the Sokoto State chapter of the opposition All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) Alhaji Ibrahim Mil-Goma and two other party officials have been remanded in prison for two weeks pending trial over allegations that they instigated anti-fuel subsidy removal protests.

Mil-Goma and party executives Usman Danmadani Isa and Abubakar Mainagani were remanded by a Sharia court over alleged conspiracy to instigate the protests during which property of PDP followers were targeted.

The suspects did not take plea as they challenged the jurisdiction of the court to hear the case. They also alleged political persecution in their arraignment.

Judge Bello Sanyinnawal adjourned the case to February 2 when he would rule on the application challenging the jurisdiction of the court, and ordered the suspects to be remanded in prison custody.

The case is coming about two months before the governorship election in which the ANPP would be the main challenger to Governor Aliyu Wamakko of the PDP.



MEMBERS of the National Action Coalition, marching towards "Gani Fawehinmi Park" for a protest, condemning the presence of military men on the street of Lagos State yesterday.

Police teargas Nwabueze, others

Continued from page 1

Troops deployed heavily on Monday in Lagos after President Goodluck Jonathan was forced into a partial climbdown over fuel prices by nationwide strikes that threatened to shut down oil production.

Troops and tanks have since been stationed in parts of the country and sealed off the main protest ground in Lagos.

Yesterday's protests, organised by the Citizens Advocacy Group, were led by Braithwaite, alongside a host of other respected Nigerians, including renowned

lawyer Festus Keyamo, activist Tunji Abayomi, Nike Ransome Kuti, Funmi Iyanda, Mr Wale Okunniyi, Yemi Adamolekun, Kola Oyeyin, Prof Tony Kila, Mr Wale Ogunade and Dr Wale Balogun.

"As elders, we are totally against the military siege in Lagos. This is a democracy. They should be withdrawn immediately" Braithwaite told the protesters before the march.

Protesters trekked towards the Gani Fawehinmi Park in Ojota where soldiers were stationed.

The procession was disrupted at 7up bus stop while protest-

ers were trying to join the link road to Ojota. Police barricaded the access road and fired tear gas canisters to disperse the demonstrators.

A protester, identified as Nelson Ekujumi of "June 12 Coalition" fainted in a stampede that ensued.

"(This) is a threat to liberty. What has just happened was a peaceful expression of people's pain. Government shouldn't have asked the policemen to fire canisters at us," Braithwaite said.

After the march was dispersed, just about half a kilometre from the rally ground, the protest-

ers regrouped and began moving back towards the Lagos State House of Assembly.

"We don't want any human casualties. These enemies of democracy, these enemies of progress are bent on making any otherwise peaceful protest a violent one by indiscriminately firing tear gas at a group defenceless people," said the 75-year-old Braithwaite.

Lagos state deputy speaker Kolawole Taiwo told the protesters earlier that "the occupation of Lagos by soldiers... is unconstitutional, it is unacceptable. Lagos is not at war."

By Francis Okeke

ORGANISED labour is yet to meet the Justice Alfa Belgore led committee set up by President Goodluck Jonathan to discuss issues surrounding the decision by government to withdraw oil subsidy four after labour called off a strike action. The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Trade Union Congress (TUC) and civil society organisations had led an eight day strike and mass protests action until government reduced the official pump price from N141 to N97. Part of the agreement reached before the strike action was called off was that labour will immediately enter into dialogue with the Belgore committee to be concluded with three days after the call off.

But when *Daily Trust* contacted NLC yesterday, its acting General Secretary Comrade Owel Lakemfa said the meeting had not kicked off due to logistics and also because modalities for the meeting had not been totally mapped out.

By Muideen Olaniji & Atika Balal

GOVERNORS, ministers and federal lawmakers from the South-South yesterday boycotted the inauguration of Vice President Namadi Sambo-led Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) National Campaign Committee for February 11, governorship election in Bayelsa State.

The party also on Tuesday secured an order of the Abuja Federal High Court asking the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to restore the name of Henry Seriake Dickson as PDP candidate in the polls.

Justice G.K. Olotu also restrained INEC from ever excluding or removing Dickson's name and that of his running mate as the duly nominated candidates of the PDP for the forthcoming governorship elec-

tion pending the determination of the motion on notice.

Inaugurating the committee at the PDP National Secretariat, the party's Acting National Chairman Alhaji Abubakar Kawu Baraje charged the Sambo team to "conquer Bayelsa State and demolish all opposition since the state has remained in the PDP since 1998."

Baraje also charged the Vice President to unite party members in the state, noting that it is only when members speak with one voice that the PDP will win in any election.

He said just as Sambo won Kogi for the party, he would also capture Adamawa and Bayelsa State.

Baraje said the process that led to the emergence of Henry Seriake Dickson as the party's governorship candidate was done in line with provision of

PDP Constitution and that of the Nigerian Constitution.

Baraje said the party approached the Court after realising that INEC was not ready to include Dickson in the race in spite of a letter.

Responding, Vice President Sambo pledged to swing into action and deliver Bayelsa State again to PDP next month.

Former President Olusegun Obasanjo, Senate President David Mark, governors, federal ministers and lawmakers from the South-South, PDP National Legal Adviser Chief Olusola Oke and Hajia Ina Ciroma among others are members of the committee.

Speaker Aminu Tambuwal, Chief Tony Anenih, Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu, former Bayelsa State Governor DSP Alameisigha, attended.

DAILY TRUST



By Haabeh I. Pindiga & Isa Saidu, with agency report

THE Federal Government and the Boko Haram sect have opened peace talks with an indirect contact made between the two sides over the past week through two senior clerics, sources privy to the discussions told *Daily Trust* last night.

A deal is being worked out for a three-month ceasefire during which there would

be no attack by the sect and there would also be no "harassment" from the government, one of the sources said.

"Boko Haram wants the release of arrested members as a condition for ceasefire. Then discussions will follow," a source told one of our reporters.

Earlier yesterday, *Reuters* news agency also reported that "mediated" talks have started.

One of the sources who spoke to *Daily*

Trust last night said the two clerics involved in the negotiations have close contacts in the Boko Haram sect, and they have been shuttling between the sect's self-proclaimed leader Abubakar Shekau and government officials.

The two clerics were in the Supreme Council for Sharia in Nigeria together with the late Boko Haram leader Mohammed Yusuf, whose death in police custody in July 2009 triggered a widespread violent upris-

ing by the sect.

But one source said the talks were being threatened by leakages in the media.

"The problem is that Boko Haram has intended for this to be confidential. But the issue has already leaked to the media. So now, Boko Haram is threatening to back out though the mediators are trying to persuade the sect to stay on," he said.

There was no immediate comment from

Continued on page 5

Oteh: Reps demanded N44m bribe from me

By Turaki A. Hassan

DIRECTOR General of the Securities and Exchange Commission Ms. Arunma Oteh yesterday opened the Pandora's box at a legislative hearing when she accused the House of Representatives' capital market committee chairman Herman Hembe of asking her for a bribe of N44 million.

Oteh, who the lawmakers on Wednesday accused of large-scale fraud, fired back yesterday, saying Hembe made two different demands for money, totalling N44 million.

She said her refusal to give the funds was behind the hostility of the committee to her during the hearing.

Hembe first asked for N39 million to fund the public hearing on the activities of the capital market, she said.

Then, a week before the commencement of the sittings, he asked her for N5 million, which she also turned down, Oteh added, drawing the ire of committee members who made further allegations of corruption against the SEC director-general.

On Wednesday, at the first session of the hearing, Hembe told Oteh that documents available to the committee showed she used N850,000 for feeding on a day alone, and also spent N30 million on hotel bills.

Yesterday, Oteh reeled out her own accu-

sations against the lawmakers, labelling the hearing as a kangaroo court that was worse than the atrocities committed by the late Ugandan leader Idi Amin.

She said last year, Hembe collected from SEC monies and a business class ticket to travel to the Dominican Republic for a conference but did not travel and never returned the money.

"Yesterday you had implied that as a regulator, that by having people on secondment from the private sector, it could undermine the capacity of the regulator to perform the functions of the commission," she said.

"In asking the SEC to contribute N39 million for this public hearing, you think that you are determining your capacity to carry out your duties. You think that if Hon. Ibedioba the deputy speaker of this House, being the nephew to Professor Ndi Okereke-Onyuike and having his wife work in Abuja office of the Nigerian Stock Exchange, do you think it will be compromising his capacity to carry out his duties?"

"I will like to say to the Nigerian people to know that I do not think that I am given a fair hearing. I do not think that in 2012, after the efforts that the forefathers of this country have made with respect to ensuring that we have a democracy, that we will

Continued on page 5

PHOTO: FELIX ONIGBINDE



DIRECTOR General, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Arunma Oteh, at a public hearing at the House of Representatives in Abuja.

Police pension fraud: EFCC to arrest perm sec, 2 directors

THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on Thursday said that investigation was at the final stage to arrest a serving federal permanent secretary and two other directors over a N14 billion scam.

EFCC Chairman Ibrahim Lamorde, who made this known in Lagos during an interactive session with newsmen, said that the fraud was organised by a syndicate in the Police Pension Office. He said that the trio had served in that office in the past four years.

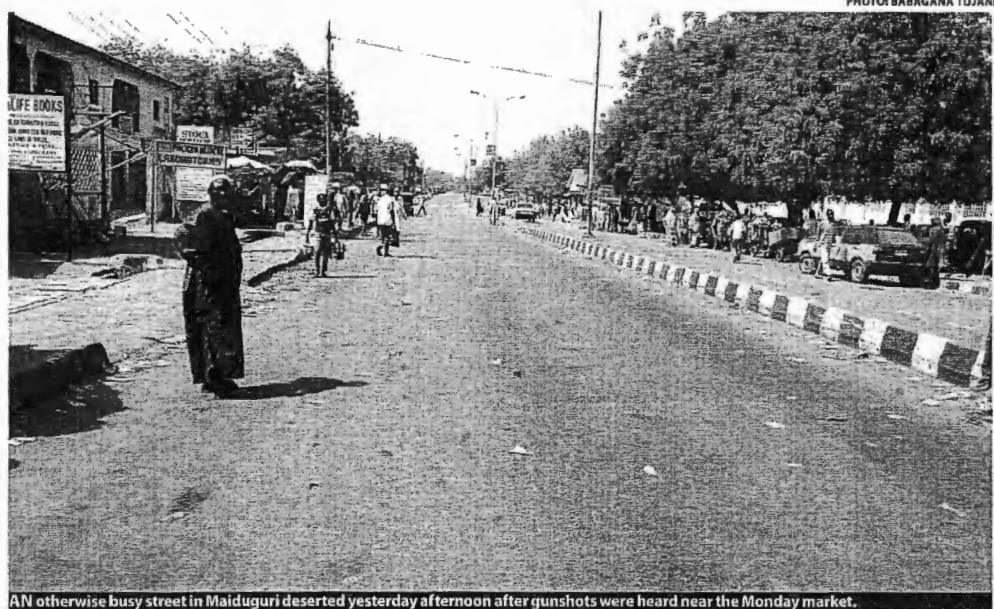
According to him, they issued 30,000 cheques and there was a day they also issued 300 cheques in one name. "I don't know how they were doing it. I don't know whether they were presenting the cheques in the bank every second," he said.

"I think the commission will like to check the activities of civil servants, because what some civil servants are doing (corrupt practices) is more than what the politicians are doing. "Civil servants own more property than politicians, especially in Abuja," he said.

Lamorde said that they were putting finishing touches to arrest and prosecute the civil servants who collaborated with politicians to steal money or those who were living above their means.

The EFCC chief said that the commission's initial investigation showed that there was a deep level of corruption in the Civil Service.

"The way they steal is mind boggling. We have to look at those of them that enriched themselves by helping politicians to steal or through other corrupt means," he said. "Some of them even steal more than the politicians. There is no level that was not involved, from directors to the messengers. It is a shame. (NAN)



AN otherwise busy street in Maiduguri deserted yesterday afternoon after gunshots were heard near the Monday market.

FG, Boko Haram consider ceasefire

Continued from page 1

the Presidency over the story yesterday. Boko Haram, which makes sporadic tele-conferences through Maiduguri-based journalists, also did not react to the report.

The senior cleric mentioned as the leading mediator did not answer calls made to seek his comments yesterday.

When our reporter called the other cleric in the talks last night, he pleaded not to be named because he said they had agreed ab initio to make these talks secret.

A third source spoken to yesterday said one of the mediators had confided in him that the dis-

cussions were going on and there were indications of success. He said the major target for now was to agree to a three-month ceasefire, during which Boko Haram will not launch any attack while security forces will not attempt to arrest any sect member.

The source said if the ceasefire is achieved, then discussions on ending the whole campaign of violence will start.

In its own report, Reuters quoted a source saying that "BH (Boko Haram) has mentioned a conditional ceasefire but it wants all its members released from prison. The government sees this as unacceptable but is willing to release foot soldiers."

It said a traditional leader and a civil rights activist, whose names were not given, were also involved in the talks.

"It is the first time a ceasefire has been mentioned, so it is a massive positive, but given the lack of trust a resolution is still a way off," the Reuters source added.

National Security Adviser, General Owoye Andrew Azazi, was quoted to have said in January that the government was considering making contact with moderate members of Boko Haram via "back channels."

President Jonathan has also said in January that the government was open to dialogue but

said sect members were hidden and therefore direct talks were unlikely.

The military's efforts to stem the sect's insurgency have had mixed results in the past, with human rights groups saying heavy-handed tactics have worsened resentment of authorities.

But more recently there have been arrests of senior figures including Abul Qaqa and Kabiru Sokoto, while some have died in clashes with security forces.

The group has not managed to launch a widescale, coordinated attack since one in Kano that killed 186 people in January, reverting to crude bomb attacks and drive by shootings.

THE State Security Service (SSS) on Thursday arraigned a 28-year-old cyber café attendant, Chinwendu Josiah, on a three-count charge of criminal intimidation, anonymous communication and extortion.

The prosecutor, Mr Cliff Osagie, told the Abuja Chief Magistrates' Court, presided over by Mrs Oyewunmi Oyebola, that the offences were committed between June 4, 2011 and Nov. 11, 2011.

He said that the accused sent threat messages via electronic mails to the U.S. Embassy, Abuja, University of Benin, University of Lagos and some government ministries.

Osagie said the accused identified himself as Musa and claimed

to be a member of the Boko Haram sect.

He said that the intention of the accused, a resident of No 7 Ada St., off Benin Technical College Road, Benin City, was to intimidate the recipients to part with their money.

The prosecutor said the offence was punishable under Sections 398 and 291 of the Penal Code.

The accused pleaded not guilty while Oyebola adjourned the case to March 29 to enable Osagie to contact his family and also get a lawyer of his choice to defend him.

She ordered that the accused be remanded in prison custody. (NAN)

democracy and they can come to the National Assembly and have a fair hearing.

"I do not think you have given me a fair hearing, I do not think, Hon. Chairman Hembe that it is appropriate for you to have gathered information from the SEC and without even asking us to verify that information, to respond to that issue and that you already made the judgment."

But Hembe denied the allegations, saying he was ready for investigation by the anti-corruption commissions.

"On my father's grave, I have never visited SEC even for over-sights and I never demanded money from her," he said.

"Strong issues of corruption have been made against me. Strong issues of corruption have been made

against the committee. So it is our hope that you (EFCC and ICPC) will do a fair hearing and investigate and give the verdict."

Apparently worried by the twist in the hearing, the House leadership, he added.

"The House leadership is very aware of the ugly development in the proceedings of the public hearing. So, they have asked me to come and see how both parties can be appealed to in order to ensure a peaceful conduct of the public hearing. We should all put aside our personal differences and look at Nigeria," Bawa said.

Meanwhile, the panel yesterday alleged that Ms Oteh purchased three vehicles at the cost of N42 million without going through tender as provided by the Public Procurement Act 2007.

The committee also said while the DG was living in an official apartment rented at the cost of N66 million for two years by the commission, she also collects monthly rent in line with the provisions of the

monetisation policy. But Oteh insisted that she had not done anything illegal.

While answering questions on the procurement

law, director of finance of the commission, Abacha Bulama, said no meeting was held before the vehi-

round. We didn't hold any meeting. We didn't meet physically," he said.

Also, the commissioner in charge of enforcement and legal, Charles Ahamefula, told the panel that when the memo was brought to him, he refused to sign because there was no meeting and he was not a party to the drafting of the memo.

He also disassociated himself from processes that led to the renting of the DG's residence in Maitama District of Abuja and said it was wrong for Oteh to be enjoying housing monetisation and at the same time living in a house rented by the commission.

The long-drawn session became tensed up intermittently as Oteh and Hembe argued and exchanged allegations of fraud.

The hearing is expected to continue today.

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Boko Haram

We are talking on FG's behalf

From Ahmed Mohammed, Bauchi

RENOWNED Islamic scholar, Sheikh Da-hiru Usman Bauchi, yesterday said that the Federal Government has commenced dialogue with the Jama'atu Ahl-usunnati Iddi'awati Wal Jihad, also called Boko Haram through his mediation effort.

Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi who disclosed this while briefing reporters during the birthday commemoration (Maulud) of the late Tijjaniyya scholar, Sheikh Ibrahim Nyas, in Bauchi, said the Bauchi State government has set up a committee for the purpose of the Federal Government.

According to him, the committee which membership includes former Secretary to the Federal Government, Alhaji Aminu Sale, is linked to the presidency through Dr. Hassan Tukur, President Goodluck

“ A reliable source at the Bauchi Government House confirmed the story, saying the government is committed to the dialogue process that is meant to bring peace. ”

Jonathan's Principal Private Secretary, and is already in contact with the Boko Haram leaders.

Efforts to confirm this from Tukur were not successful as he neither picked his call nor replied an SMS sent to his mobile last night. But a reliable source at the Bauchi Government House confirmed the story, saying the government is committed to the dialogue process that is meant to bring peace.

Sheikh Dahiru said the committee had

— Dahiru Bauchi



SHEIKH Dahiru Bauchi

written a letter to Boko Haram, on request from its leadership to intimate it of government's resolve to dialogue with them, and is awaiting reply to push the process further.

A prominent cleric of the Tijjaniyya Islamic sect, Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi is known to have wide links with northern

Emirs and commands respect from followers of the Tijjaniyya ideology in Nigeria.

Giving details of the process, the cleric said: "Several months back we started making effort to intervene and negotiate between the Boko Haram and the Federal

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Plane crash: FG withdraws Dana license

From Kayode Ogunwale, Chris Agabi, Femi Anola, Nurudeen Oyejole, Lagos and Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar, Abuja

FOR safety and precautionary reasons, the Federal Government yesterday withdrew the operating license of Dana Air, the owners of the ill-fated plane that crashed on Sunday in Lagos killing all 153 passengers on board with many ground casualties.

Federal Government said the airline's licence has been suspended indefinitely for the negligence that resulted in the death of the passengers it was carrying on an MC Donnell Douglas MD plane.

The Special Adviser on Media to the Aviation Minister, Mr. Joe Obi, said the airline has been "suspended for safety operational reasons." Earlier Dana had announced the suspension of its flight operations in sympathy of the victims.

An aviation commentator, Mr. Chris Alligbe has described the suspension of operational license of the airline as normal procedure.

"Most times when an airline is involved in a fatal accident, its operations are sus-

“ Most times when an airline is involved in a fatal accident, its operations are suspended for thorough investigation to be effected. In some other advanced economies, the aircraft model may be suspended until investigations are complete. ”

ended for thorough investigation to be effected. In some other advanced economies, the aircraft model may be suspended until investigations are complete.

Meanwhile, Dana Air has confirmed that the Flight Voice Recorder and Black Box from the Boeing MD83 aircraft which was involved in the tragic accident on Sunday, June 3 has been recovered by the joint team comprising the Accident Investigation Bureau (AIB), the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the

Continued on page 5

'We are talking on FG's behalf'

Continued from Page 1

Government. We did our best and located them through a scholar called Sheikh Umar Mohammed Diyar in Damaru who assisted us. We told them that ongoing killing of people is not in the interest of Islam because presently, under a peaceful atmosphere, in my schools, over 600 people are able to memorize the Holy Qur'an; if there is no peace, how can we get hundreds of Qur'anic memorizers."

Sheikh Dahiru said the members told him that Muslims who are on the path of Allah don't seek for dialogue, quoting a verse from the Holy Qur'an. But he said he engaged them in an academic manner by quoting another verse to them which said if they (government) seek for dialogue and cease fire, you should agree.

He said: "We discussed and they agreed that they will dialogue with Federal Government through me because they believed I would not fail the trust they bestowed on me. And after that I told them I will meet the Federal Government. We met the Federal Government and told them that they have fire in their hands and these people also have fire and fire can't quench fire so let's resort to dialogue and they agreed."

"The Federal Government asked Bauchi State Government to set up a committee to dialogue through them, and we started; me, the Principal Personal Secretary, PPS, to President Jonathan, Hassan Tukur. I also needed someone who knows the activities of government so I invited a former Secretary to the Federal Government, Alhaji Aminu Saleh, Wamban Katagum, who said he would be with me."

"After we met we went back to them (Boko Haram) and told them that the Federal Government had agreed to dialogue with them on condition that their leader would come out and announce a cease fire for three months or a minimum of 40 days and government will stop arresting their members. But they said they wanted it in writing and the government wrote a letter to them through me and I gave

them. We waited for some time and asked them the reply of the letter and they said they want the government to publicise the letter in newspapers so that everybody will read and see."

The scholar said it was on that basis that he invited reporters yesterday to show them the letter which was written to the sect by the Federal Government through the Bauchi State committee.

The letter which was signed by the Permanent Secretary, Bauchi Government House, Abdu Aliyu Ilesah, on behalf of the committee reads in part: "The Committee set up by the Federal Government of Nigeria hereby appreciates the decision and commitment of Jama'atul Ahlusunnati Lidda'awati wal Jihad to negotiate peace with Government through Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi. The Federal Government of Nigeria on its own part embraces the gesture and pledges to negotiate peace through Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi. We also hope that on its part Jama'atul Ahlusunnati Lidda'awati Wal Jihad will observe a ceasefire and present terms for negotiations so that dialogue can commence."

Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi said the committee would soon approach Boko Haram leaders to ask them to, in accordance with their promise, come out and announce a ceasefire after which, "we will also appeal to the government to stop arresting their members."

"They will come out with their demands for government to know and government will also come out with their own; we will intervene and negotiate in order to have peace in Nigeria and Africa."

On the attempt made by Dr Datti Ahmed to negotiate with Boko Haram, Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi said: "I asked them and they told him that they did not ask Dr Datti to negotiate with anybody on their behalf, in fact they told me that they don't know him."

Earlier this year, Dr Datti Ahmed President of the Supreme Council for Shariah in Nigeria (SCSN),

announced that he was pulling out of a mediation effort to bring the Federal Government and the Boko Haram to talk following what he said was a betrayal from government's side.

He said: "I felt very disturbed with the turn of events and the increasing cycle of massive violence in our country, and especially, in the Northern and Muslim parts of Nigeria. We in the SCSN, therefore, made enquiries as to how to reach the current leadership of the Jama'atu Ahlusunnati Lidda'awati wal Jihad, otherwise known as Boko Haram."


"Our enquiries led us to a reporter who we realized maintained close and valuable professional contact with leadership of the sect. Through this gentleman, we contacted the leadership of the sect and established from them that as Muslims they were prepared to consider "Sulhu" which means "broad reconciliation" regarding the dispute between them and the government."

"It was, at this juncture, that I and the Secretary General of the SCSN, on behalf of the Supreme Council for Shariah in Nigeria contacted the Federal Government at the highest level and intimated them of this great possibility of reconciliation and peaceful resolution of the crisis. This was on Monday, 5th March, 2012. My delegation was well received and a high-ranking civilian officer was appointed immediately to liaise with us towards a successful resolution of the crisis. To our shock and dismay, no sooner had we started this dialogue; Nigerian newspapers came out with a lot of the details of the meeting held."

"This development has embarrassed us very much and has created strong doubts in our minds about the sincerity of the government's side in our discussion as the discussion is supposed to be very confidential to achieve any success."

"In view of this unfortunate and unhelpful development, we have no option but to withdraw from these early discussions. We sincerely regret that an opportunity to negotiate and terminate this cycle of violence is being missed."

PC/MAN


BAUCHI STATE OF NIGERIA

Office of the Secretary to the State Executive Council
Government of Bauchi State
Bauchi, Nigeria

Dear Sirs,

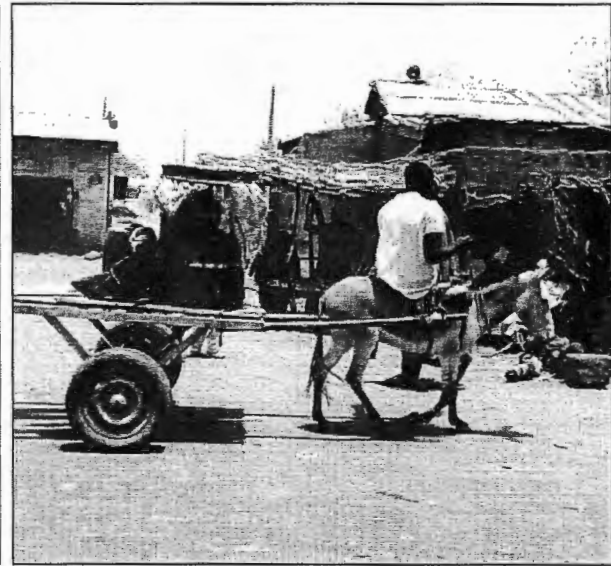
Header

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAMA'ATUL AHLUL SUNNAH LIDDA'AWA WAL JIHAD

This Committee set up by the Federal Government of Nigeria hereby appreciates the decision and commitment of Jama'atul Ahul Sunnah Lidda'awati Wal Jihad to negotiate peace with Government through Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi. The Federal Government of Nigeria on its own part embraces the gesture and pledges to negotiate peace through Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi.

2. We also hope that, on its part, Jama'atul Ahul Sunnah Lidda'awati Wal Jihad, will observe a ceasefire and present terms for negotiation, so that dialogue can commence.

Abdu Aliyu Ilesah
For: the committee
22/03/2012



DAILY Trust reader Sharfaddeen Sidi Umar sent us this picture, with the CAPTION: "Another means of transporting water to the house at Gada Local GOVERNMENT Area, Sokoto state." DO you have an interesting picture you want to share with our readers? EMAIL it to mypicture@daillytrust.com

FG withdraws Dana license Dakingari raises constitution review c'ttee

Continued from Page 1

Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA).
A flight data recorder (FDR) (also called ADR, for accident data recorder) is an electronic device employed to record any instructions sent to any electronic systems on an aircraft. It is a device used to record specific aircraft performance parameters. Popularly referred to as a "black box", the data recorded by the FDR is used

for accident investigation, as well as for analyzing air safety issues, material degradation and engine performance.
Recovery of the device has raised hopes of finding out the cause of the crash.
Jacky Hathiramani, CEO of Dana Air said: "We are grateful for the progress made by the aviation authorities towards determining the cause of the unfortunate accident and we will continue to offer our full

support while the investigations last."
"There are absolutely no words to accurately express our grief and sorrow over this tragedy. We have not only lost some of the most loyal and valued guests of the airline but also eminent citizens, as well as promising young ones, to the accident. We have also lost some of the finest and most dedicated staff that any organisation can dream of," he said.

From Umar Jibrilu Gwandu, Birnin Kebbi

Governor Sa'idu Usman Dakingari of Kebbi State has inaugurated an 18-member committee to prepare position paper on the review of the 1999 Constitution.
Speaking during the inauguration of the com-

mittee in Birnin Kebbi on Monday, Governor Dakingari said the National Assembly was to review the 1999 constitution to accommodate other issues of nation building.
He said part of the issues to be considered for amendment included creation of states, role of traditional rulers,

fiscal federalism, immunity clause, rotation of executive offices among others.
In his address, the chairman of the committee, Justice Uthman Mohammed, a retired Supreme Court judge, promised to do justice and come out with a report that would reflect the interest of the common man.

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FG is biggest Boko Haram, Buhari says

From Christiana T. Alabi, Kaduna

FORMER head of state Muhammadu Buhari says the Federal Government is the biggest of three types of Boko Haram, referring to the sect that has waged a deadly campaign of violence for more than two years.

Speaking in Kaduna yesterday when he received a delegation from the Niger State chapter of the Congress for Progressive Change, General Buhari said also that the

“Th

next general elections must be free and fair or else there would be serious crisis in the country.

“I will like to quote Professor Ango Abdullahi that said there are three Boko Harams, including the original one led by

Muhammadu Buhari, saying that Boko Haram supporters tried to take revenge in attack on the Federal Government.

Haram of various kinds, including the original one, the biggest Boko Haram and the Federal Government,” Buhari said, without expatiating on the third category.

But his comments echoed suspicion
Continued on page 5

‘How soldiers brutalised Kano people’

● It's completely false —JTF

From Nazifi Dawud Khalid, Kano

RESIDENTS of Dorayi quarters in Kano said they woke up to a grisly morning on Sunday when soldiers stormed the neighbourhood in search of “suspects.”

The soldiers beat up people, rummaged through personal belongings and pilfered money, as well as attempted to rape a housewife during the raid, residents told *Daily Trust* yesterday.

Dorayi is near the Bayero University, where gunmen killed at least 19 people last month, and where planted bombs were subsequently found before they went off.

Residents said dozens of soldiers arrived in the neighbourhood in pickup vehicles and armored personnel carriers

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PHOTO: NAN

MILITARY vehicles on display at the opening of combat arms training week in Bauchi yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEHU K. GORO



RETIRED General Muhammadu Buhari addressing Niger state officials of the Congress for Progressive Change, at his house yesterday in Kaduna.

Senate urges review of export grant, credit certificate

By Isiaha Wakil

THE Senate yesterday urged a review of the Export Expansion Grant and the Negotiable Duty Credit Certificate Schemes.

Speaking in Abuja while interacting with stakeholders, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Investment, Senator Esther Nenadi Usman (PDP, Kaduna South), said the review would encourage exportation of non-oil products and checkmate activities of importers of luxurious and non-essential products.

The Minister of State for Finance, Yerima Ngama, disclosed that N202.3 billion had accrued to the beneficiaries of the negotiable duty credit certificate scheme since 2005 when the export expansion grant scheme was established.

Also speaking, the Minister of State for Trade and Investment, Samuel Ortom, listed delays in processing of claims, rejection of the credit certificate by the NCS, high discount rates, ignorance and misconception as major challenges confronting the schemes.



SEN Nenadi Usman

FG is biggest Boko Haram, Buhari says

Continued from page 1

expressed in some quarters that the Boko Haram violence goes way beyond the sect founded by the late Mohammed Yusuf.

Buhari said the North was not silent on issues of insecurity as claimed by some people but that the North does not own the police, soldiers or Central Bank.

"Since the leaders now don't listen to anybody but do whatever they wish, there is nothing the North can do," he said.

Buhari also spoke on elections, saying: "In 2015, there must be a free and fair election or there will be a serious crisis."

"God willing by 2015, something will happen. They either conduct a free and fair election or they go a very disgraceful way," he added.

Buhari has become a peren-

nial presidential candidate since he first threw his hat into the ring in 2003. He had said he would remain in politics for life but the 2011 poll was the last he would contest in. Media reports lately said he has changed his mind.

He said yesterday the CPC should organise while he re-considers his position on whether or not to stand for election in 2015. "That was what I told those who have visited me in the past but the press wrote that I said I have changed my mind about re-contesting," he said.

Buhari said the petroleum industry has been destroyed by corruption.

"These kind of things can only happen under the type of Nigeria's current leadership; nowhere in the world can such things happen now and nowhere in the world can government increase the

cost of petroleum products with more than 120 per cent. It is most insensitive. Besides the air people breathe, the next important thing to them is petroleum products," he said.

"I know more about petroleum industry than others in government because I was there for over three years as a leader. We started with Port Harcourt refinery producing 60,000 barrels per day, it was upgraded to N100,000 barrels per day. Another one was built there also in Port Harcourt producing over 150,000 barrels making a total of 250,000 barrels per day slated purely on Nigerian crude.

"I personally asked the owner to sign the contract for Warri and Kaduna refineries, 100,000 barrels each. More than 20 depots, more than 3,200 pipelines and there was even a time we were

exporting 100,000 barrels per day of refined products. But this current leadership has destroyed the industry," he said.

Earlier in his remark, the chairman of Niger State chapter of CPC, Umar Shuaibu, said life in Nigeria amounted to living in a jungle where the strong freely devours the weak.

"We were apprehensive when General Buhari posited that the 2011 elections were the last he would participate as a candidate. To us that was akin to a father deserting his children at the utmost time for their need for direction. However, we received with joy the recent assurance of General's resolve to continue in politics to the end of his life," he said.

He said they visited Buhari to strengthen his resolve to continue the struggle for justice in Nigeria.

'How soldiers brutalised Kano people'

Continued from page 1

at about 5.30am as Muslims perform the morning prayers.

Malam Haladu Adamu, imam of one of the mosques in the area, said he was coming out of the mosque when soldiers shouted at him to stop.

"They forced every worshipper to sit down in front of the mosque while others that were coming for other purposes were forced to lie face down on road. We were all *raabka* in *paradise* the morning prayers until 9.00am after they had left," he said.

Anas Alkasim, who suffered a knee-joint dislocation during the incident, said, "I was on my way to the mosque around 5.30am when some soldiers suddenly pounced on me and began hitting me with iron rods and sticks.

"They also used aluminium

ladders to scale the walls of our houses and jump into our compounds while some of them used gun butts to forcefully open our doors.

"The soldiers claimed they were searching for some suspects and rummaged our rooms... dispossessing us of our money and mobile phones. I lost my N20,000 school fees that was sent to me by a relative to the soldiers during the raid."

Hajiya Fadiza, a middle-aged housewife, said she was on her praying mat when she heard people screaming outside. "About 10 soldiers later forced their way into our house... They entered our rooms and demanded for our phones. They took away our money amounting to N3,000.

"When I demanded to know what the problem was, the soldiers simply told us that they were

looking for some suspects. They forced out many of us out of our homes and asked us to lie down face down. Some of the women were half-naked," she said.

Another victim who does not want her name mentioned told *Daily Trust* that she resisted attempts by one of the soldiers to rape her.

"I was sleeping in my room with my children when one of the soldiers broke in and asked us all to move out. They asked about my husband and I told them that he had gone to the mosque. They then lifted up my mattress and searched under our bed and ceilings.

"As I came out of the room and tried to seek refuge in my neighbour's house, one of the soldiers who remained inside my room beckoned at me but I ignored him. When I noticed that he wanted to

rape me, I told him that I would rather be shot dead than go to him. He then opened my box of clothes and took away my N2,000. My children were so traumatised that they couldn't take any breakfast. These soldiers should please leave us alone," she said.

When contacted for comments, spokesman for the Joint Task Force in Kano, Lieutenant Ikedichi Iweha, said the allegations of the Dorayi people were "completely false, baseless and a fabrication aimed tarnishing the image of the JTF."

He said that the JTF only cordons off areas that are marked for operations without entering into people's houses. "If there are any complaints against the JTF, the complainants should come to the barracks and file their grievances. We have military police that would go and investigate," he said.

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Mark to FG: Dialogue with Boko Haram

By Islaka Wakil

SENATE President David Mark yesterday asked the Federal Government to re-start talks with the Boko Haram sect to end its campaign of violence that has killed more

than 200 people in the past year alone.

"(These) misguided groups are our brothers and sisters, government must therefore explore all avenues to discuss with them," Mark said, apparently referring to the sect which calls itself Jama'atu Ahlis

Sunnah Lidda'awati Wal Jihad.

Boko Haram says its aim is to broaden the implementation of Sharia in the North, and had targeted largely the security agencies until in the past months when it began hitting churches, primary schools, univer-

sities and newspaper houses.

"On the other hand, those who are aggrieved must find a better way to express their grievances. It is in the national interest that there is peace and security particu-

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PHOTO: OLADIFUPO ODUNWU



CALISTHENICS display by pupils of Queen's College during the 4th Anniversary of the Climate Change Club for schools in Lagos yesterday.

By Abbas Jimoh

A meeting on Sunday between Buhari and Tinubu in Lagos was

meant to revive alliance moves between the Action Congress of Nigeria and the Congress for Progressive Change, party officials

told *Daily Trust* in Abuja yesterday. Retired General Muhammadu Buhari visited ACN leader Bola Tinubu at his residence in Lagos,

where they met behind closed doors.

Sources close to the two leaders said they discussed the politi-

cal future of the two leading opposition parties, especially how to restart consultations towards

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Dialogue with Boko Haram

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larly if we want the transformation agenda to succeed," Mark said at the resumption of the Senate from a week's recess.

Also yesterday, a senior Katsina traditional title holder urged the government to dialogue with Boko Haram.

Alhaji Sani Lugga, the Wazirin Katsina, in a statement, said "dialogue is the best remedy" for the sect's violent campaign.

"Whatever are the claims of 'Boko Haram', dialogue could bring about a solution. Continued use of force may only worsen the situation leading to more losses of lives and properties," Lugga said.

He said the sect's claim of avenging the killing of its founder Mohammed Yusuf was similar to the Niger Delta crisis that heightened after the execution of Ken Saro Wiwa in 1995.

"The hangings (of Wiwa and co) were termed as 'judicial murders'. That triggered the metamorphosis of MOSOP into MEND," he said.

Boko Haram "came into limelight as a result of the arrest and 'extra-judicial murder' of its head, Mallam Mohammed Yusuf, along with other leaders of the group while in the custody of the Borno State Police Command on 30th July, 2009.

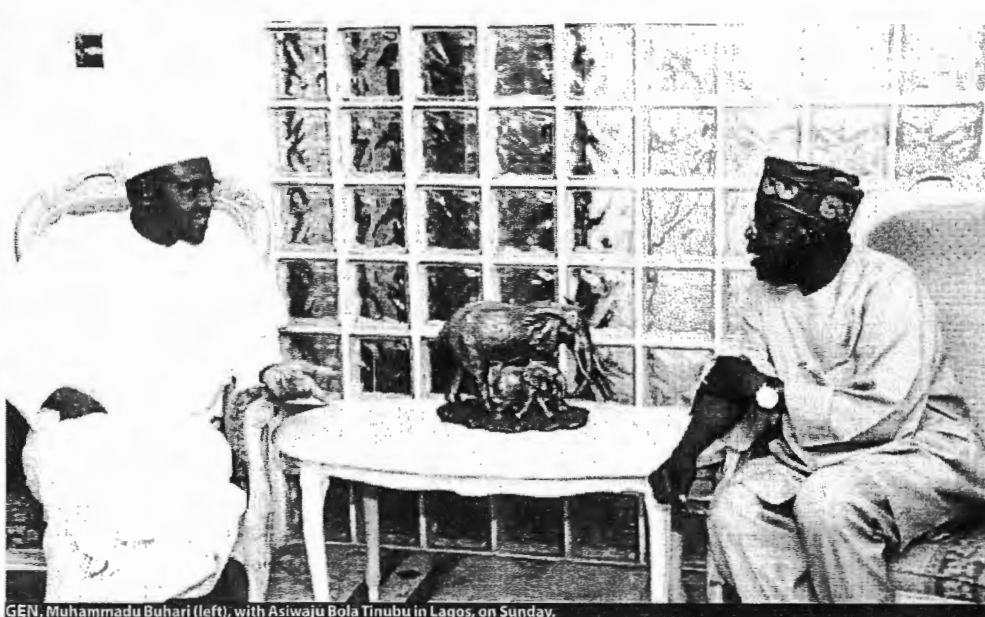
"MEND and BH sprang up in identical fashions and their activities escalated after the 'murder' of their leaders and the arrest of their members.... While MEND tilts towards the fight against economic injustice, BH tilts towards the fight against social and religious injustice.... MEND introduced the use of sophisticated weapons and bombs in its operations and BH followed suit."

He added: "Today in Nigeria, bombs are used by armed robbers to blow-up bank vaults. Bombs are used by kidnappers. Both Muslims and Christians have been arrested and are in the custody of the security agencies for using or attempting to use bombs.... So, the crisis transcends Boko Haram as it is multifarious in nature that deserves decisive action by the authorities."

Lugga said government should consider recommendations of the Sheikh Ahmed Lemu panel that poverty alleviation measures, justice and fairness and eradication of corruption should be the guiding principles of governance.

"Government should listen to the 'Boko Haram' and broker peace with them. This type of dialogue has been tested in other countries and has been tested and implemented in Nigeria by the last administration.

"The rest of Nigerians should continue to pray for peace. But peace, stability and progress can only be achieved through working towards their achievement and not by merely praying," he added.



GEN. Muhammadu Buhari (left), with Asiwaju Bola Tinubu in Lagos, on Sunday.

Buhari, Tinubu move to revive alliance

Continued from page 1

merger or alliance ahead of 2015.

The meeting came as, according to one source, some People's Democratic Party leaders who are angry over the outcome of the party's recent convention consider working with the opposition parties to confront the ruling party.

Sources in CPC and ACN said the Buhari-Tinubu meeting discussed a possible alliance that would include the other main opposition party, All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP).

National secretary of CPC, Buba Galadima, told *Daily Trust* yesterday in Abuja that the two leaders had "fruitful discussions" on alliance and workable plans ahead of the next general elections. He said they also reviewed some of the issues that scuppered previous alliance moves before the 2011 elections.

For his part, CPC spokesman Rotimi Fashakin said, "The visit is part of the ongoing cooperation among progressives in breaking the primordial barriers of yore

and ensuring that the yearnings of the people for a stable, virile and just nation are satisfied."

Spokesman for the ACN, Lai Mohammed, was not available for comment yesterday.

But two top ACN officials told *Daily Trust* that there had been moves for Buhari and Tinubu to meet and that a birthday event both of them attended in Abuja last week was used to facilitate the Sunday meeting.

"We are starting early to avoid the pitfalls of previous meetings and talks," one ACN official said.

"We want to be sure we got it right this time around, dotting our i's and crossing our t's; moreover that we have some aggrieved PDP members giving us vital information on their parties internal wrangling and how we can overcome our own differences."

ANPP's spokesman Emma Eneukwu, was not available for comment; he had however told our reporter earlier in an interview that the party "is in serious talks with other opposition parties ahead of the 2015 elections."

Export grant: Okonjo-Iweala, Aganga, Dikko shun Senate

By Islaka Wakili

FINANCE Minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Trade and Investment Minister Olusegun Aganga and the Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service, Abdullahi Dikko, yesterday shunned the Senate panel investigating the handling of the Export Expansion Grant Scheme designed to motivate cotton producers.

The Chairman of the Senate Committee on Investment and

former Minister of Finance, Senator Esther Nenadi Usman (PDP, Kaduna South), said the trio had been summoned three times following a petition by members of the Cotton Association of Nigeria over the charges they were being asked to pay for the exportation of their commodities.

The committee resolved to send them letters of invitation again and threatened to order their arrest should they fail to appear before it next Monday.

By Islaka Wakili

THE Chairman of the Pension Reform Task Force, Abdulrasheed Maina, stole pension funds worth billions of naira, the Senate panel probing the mismanagement of the funds has said.

Addressing journalists yesterday at the National Assembly Complex, the Chairman of the Senate Joint Committee on Public Service and Establishment and State and Local Government Administration, Senator Aloysius Etok, denied the allegation cred-

ited to Maina that the committee demanded N2 billion bribe from him.

Etok urged the law enforcement agencies to investigate the allegation, saying "if proved to be true, I shall offer myself to be tied to the state and be shot as an additional antidote for craft and corruption in our society".

He noted that Maina failed to appear before the panel to defend himself on numerous petitions and evidence of pension fund looting.

Senate blasts FG over non-implementation of NASS resolutions

By Islaka Wakili

THE Senate yesterday flayed the Federal Government for not implementing its resolutions on national issues.

Speaking after the second reading of a bill for an Act to repeal the Centre for Automotive Design and Development Act 1992 and the National Automotive Council Act 1993 to provide for the establishment of the National Automotive Design and Development Council, Senate President David Mark decried the lack of the political will to make government institutions work.

Ibrahim Gobir (PDP, Sokoto East), suggested that the Centre for Automotive and Development and the National Automotive Council be merged to stop duplication of their duties and help the government cut the costs of governance.

But Senator Mudashiru Husain (ACN, Osun West) opposed the bill, saying rather than merge both agencies, the power sector must be improved to strengthen them.

Opening the debate earlier, Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba (PDP, Cross River) said his bill sought to revolutionise the automotive industry.

(PDP, Kaduna South), Enyimaya Abaribe (PDP, Abia South), Olu-sola Adeyeye (ACN, Osun East), Phillip Aduda (PDP, FCT) and

to the Committee on Industry for further legislative inputs. The committee is expected to submit its report in two weeks' time.

Mining: FG challenges state governors

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

STATE governors across have been challenged to develop mining sector of their states in a bid to boost their revenue base.

Minister of Mines and Steel Development, Arch. Musa Muhammad Sada, gave the chal-

lenge yesterday at the ongoing ministerial platform organised by the Ministry of Information in Abuja.

He said governors should help in developing the sector rather than sitting and claiming they have abandoned mineral resources in their states.

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From Lawan Danjuma Adamu & Nazifi Dawud Khalid, Kano

BOKO Haram followers are planning to launch another major attack in Kano during the Easter holiday, similar to their deadly strike in January, the Joint Task Force said yesterday.

The force asked people to stay indoors

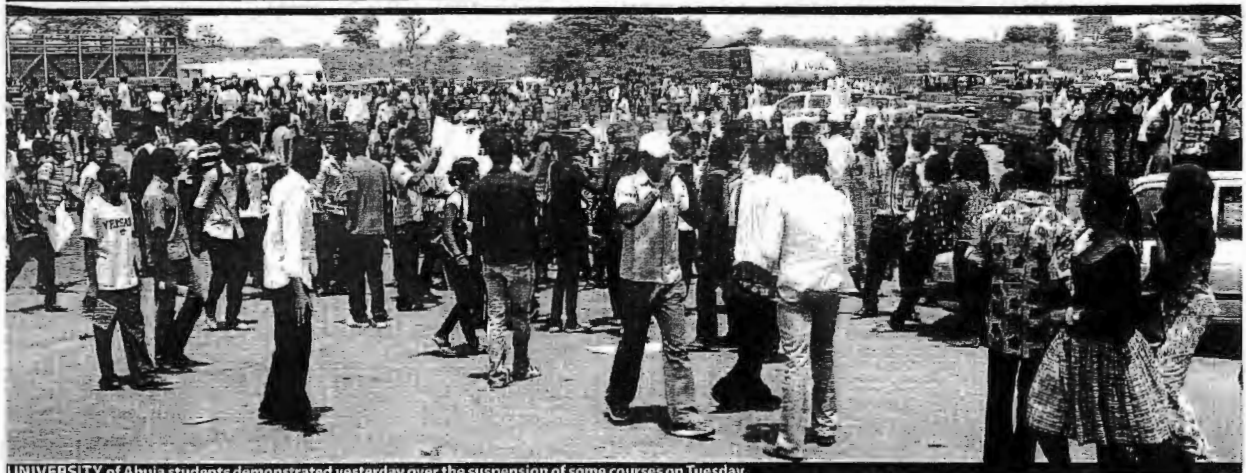
during the period unless if they had to go out to avoid being caught up in the likely confrontation between security agencies and sect members.

Spokesman for the JTF in Kano, Lt. Ikedichi Iweha, told journalists yesterday at the Army's 3 Brigade headquarters that intelligence reports showed the sect was

likely vehicles to be used in the attacks, adding that gunmen on Tuesday night snatched a Honda car, possibly for suicide bombing, but it was later recovered by security men.

Boko Haram's deadliest strike yet happened on Tuesday.

Continued on page 5



UNIVERSITY of Abuja students demonstrated yesterday over the suspension of some courses on Tuesday.

By Ronald Mutum, Boco Edet & Mibahu Bashir

AUTHORITIES of the

University of Abuja yesterday announced indefinite suspension of academic activities and ordered stu-

dents to vacate campuses, following demonstrations over stoppage of certain courses.

Students were given till 6pm yesterday to leave the university's premises, apparently in order to

forestall escalation of protests over the suspension of courses in four departments by the Federal Gov-

ernment on Tuesday.

Angry students barricaded the busy Umaru

Continued on page 5

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Managing Director of the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), Mr. George Uriesi, yesterday appeared before a Federal High Court, Lagos, to answer the allegations of contempt charges slammed on him by the court.

Presiding Judge, Justice Binta Nyako, had last week summoned Uriesi and three other members of the management staff of the company. Her action followed forms 48 (contempt proceedings) filed against them over alleged disobedience of a court's earlier order delivered on September 24.

When the matter came up yesterday, Uriesi's lawyer, Mr. Kola Awodein SAN, denied that his client and others disobeyed court order.

According to him, they were not in court because they were no longer in the employees of FAAN and were probably not aware of the court's processes.

Opposing the development, the lawyer to Maervis Limited, the company that initiated the contempt proceeding, Mr. Yemi Osinbajo SAN, said that the contempt proceedings must be heard on the premise that the applications being claimed to have been filed at the Court of Appeal.

The court adjourned the matter to April 23, for further hearing.



SECURITY men keeping an eye on commercial motorcyclists at Unguwar Sarki in Kaduna yesterday.

US to partner with Nigeria over Boko Haram

By Romoke W. Ahmad

THE United States of America has reiterated commitment to help Nigeria in the fight against Boko Haram and other security challenges as well as corruption.

Speaking yesterday during a press briefing at the US embassy in Abuja, US Ambassador to Nigeria, Ambassador Terence P. McCulley, said US is committed to partnership with Nigeria in fighting Boko Haram challenges, adding that they have programmes with the Nigerian Police in various areas of capacity building.

While commending Nigeria security agencies, McCulley said "there were significant successes in capturing and detaining members of the extreme faction of Boko Haram. So, I think that there would continue to be challenges and Nigeria can count on partners like the United States to help build capacities to address these challenges."

Speaking on the issue of good governance and corruption, the ambassador disclosed that US have variety of programmes to build capacity of the EFCC and commended President Jonathan for appointment of Ibrahim Lamorde as the new EFCC chairman.

"We saluted the nomination of Chairman Ibrahim Lamorde. For a year and half, we tried to raise nomination because we recognized that the EFCC had not been able to fulfill its mandate. We have a variety of training programmes in place to build the capacity of EFCC workers," the diplomat said.

Boko Haram plans major Kano attack — JTF

Continued from page 1

opened in Kano on January 20, when at least 186 people were killed, according to the official figures. On that day, eight security formations were attacked by suicide bombers and gunmen. Since then Kano has witnessed sporadic shootings targeting security men and formations.

"Residents should be security conscious and be mindful of their movements because we have intelligence report that the terrorists are planning to take advantage of the oncoming Easter holiday to launch a large scale attack on Kano city just like they had done earlier this year," Iweha said yesterday.

He said people should stay at home unless they have serious activities to attend to outside.

"We are trying very hard to protect the lives of Kano people from being terminated by terrorists. The JTF always tries to be professional in conducting its

duties. Therefore people should accept our advice and stay indoors during the holiday," Iweha added.

In a statement later emailed to *Daily Trust* in Kano, Iweha alerted members of the public to activities of "criminal terrorists" looking for vehicles to use for suicide attacks.

"It may interest you to know that snatching of the vehicle is not an end in itself but a means to an end. It is also in line with available intelligence to the fact that criminal terrorist elements are going about desperately looking for specific vehicles to be used for suicide missions in Kano metropolis and its environs," he said.

"Members of the public are continuously called upon to continue to remain vigilant, report suspicious cars especially Honda and Golf brands and movements of persons to the police and other security agencies.

"This would go a long way to frustrate the plans of the extremist elements bent on sabotaging the economy of the state as well as the

peace of the community."

He gave an account of how the car was snatched on Tuesday: "Yesterday, 3 April 2012 at about 2130hrs, a JTF checkpoint was alerted by an afflicted member of the public whose car was snatched at gun point at his residence by terrorist elements as he entered his house.

"The car was to be used possibly in the next few days for suicide bombing mission. Based on the tip off, the JTF alerted all its units within the area to look out for a Honda accord car 2008 model with the colour and description accurately given.

"The troops at all JTF checkpoints responded with all alertness and within twenty minutes, one of our checkpoints spotted the vehicle in question.

"The vehicle was flagged down for checking, but the terrorist elements on sighting men of the JTF opened fire at the check point in their desperate bid to get away.

"Troops at the checkpoint

responded in self-defence and to frustrate the criminal terrorist elements from getting away. During the brief but intense encounter, three of the terrorist elements were gunned down.

"An immediate search conducted on the vehicle revealed that the occupants had 2 AK 47 Rifles, 1 pistol, 1 locally manufactured pistol, 47 rounds of 7.62mm special and 6 rounds of 9mm."

The JTF spokesman, who displayed the stolen car, the corpses of the suspects and the weapons recovered, said that Boko Haram followers now engage in kidnapping and carjacking because they have run out of money.

Our correspondent reports that security measures were being stepped up in Kano yesterday, ahead of the Easter holidays, which start tomorrow.

In addition to the checkpoints around the city, armour tanks were noticed being deployed yesterday around the prisons area.

UniAbuja shut after students protest

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Yar'Adua Way in front of the university's main campus, obstructing traffic for hours.

The students were protesting against the suspension of courses in the departments of medicine, veterinary medicine, engineering and agriculture announced on Tuesday over non-accreditation and the consequent inability of students to graduate.

Some of the affected students, who spoke to *Daily Trust* on condition of anonymity because they feared victimisation, said they would continue with the protest until the government reversed its

decision.

They lamented the decision as callous and unacceptable, saying accreditation was an ongoing process, and that it was the responsibility of the authorities to provide the facilities that would standardise academic activities.

The police in Abuja yesterday said a detachment of riot policemen was dispatched to the Giri junction along the Abuja-Lokoja road to 'cajole' the protesting students to leave the road.

Police spokesman Jimoh Moshood said policemen led by area commander Sunday Odukoja used persuasive measures to disperse the students and restore

order and traffic flow on the highway. No one was arrested.

He said the police have commenced discussions with the university authorities to prevent a repeat of such protest.

Vice-Chancellor of the institution, Prof. James Adelabu, who made an appearance at the gate of the institution to calm the students, said he was yet to be served any official notice about the suspension of the courses.

He said his administration has been making efforts to ensure that facilities needed were put in place for the accreditation of affected courses.

He decried the inability of the

school to effectively run the suspended courses, saying admission into those programs had to be stopped after his appointment as vice chancellor in 2009.

Meanwhile the National Universities Commission (NUC) said yesterday it was aware of the protests in the University of Abuja but was awaiting a formal report from the vice chancellor.

Deputy Executive Secretary of NUC, Akinbode Agbaoye, said the programmes had not been scrapped but the Federal Ministry of Education only suspended them indicating there was still room for remedial action to be taken.