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Delta councillor shot dead by unknown assailants

22 MARCH 2011 NIGERIAN COMPASS HITS: 12



THE **councillor** representing Akubgene Ward 9 in the legislative arm of the **Bomadi** Local Government Area of **Delta** State, Mr. Edesemi Kumo, was on Saturday shot dead by a six-man armed robbery gang on the Ohoro-Bomadi Road.

Kumo was shot in the neck by the men, who also made away with his money and other valuable items.

According to eyewitnesses, the deceased was driving in his light green Volkswagen Passat car when he ran into a barricade mounted by the **robbers** around the Ode Bridge.

On sighting them, he attempted to make a U-turn but his car somersaulted.

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NDDC initiates fresh reforms to serve N' Delta communities

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More cannabis farms discovered in Ekiti, says NDLEA

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Niger **Delta** better, the region's Development Commission (NDDC) has embarked on internal reforms, just as it said that lack of "organisational will" was responsible for some failures recorded in the past.

NDDC said that the reform initiative, through a technology-based Systems Applications and Products technology (SAP), would make its workers to be more focused, and make the commission more timely and efficient in its service and project delivery.

The Managing Director of NDDC, Mr. Chibuzor Ugwuoha, who said this, spoke while inaugurating two committees that would implement the project.

He said that big corporations around the globe now focus on technology to effectively manage their internal operations.

According to him, NDDC as an organisation that focuses on the developmental needs of the people had no option than to embrace SAP, even though people are comfortable "with the status quo".

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Uduaghan inaugurates digital radio in Warri

22 MARCH 2011 JOE OGBODU HITS:   
34

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AHEAD of the deadline for broadcasting stations in the country, **Delta** State Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan, at the weekend, inaugurated a new digital FM station for the state- owned broadcast service in Warri, a commercial centre in the state.

The station has encountered operational failures and hiccups in the recent past, which are attributable to the age and obsolete nature of the facilities.

At the event in Edjebah, near Warri, Uduaghan said that procurement of the radio facilities is part of government policy of revamping, re-engineering and repositioning the state media, stressing that the new digital FM would go a long way in bring governance closer to the grassroots.

He said that radio is a viable tool to reach out to the grassroots on activities of government, saying that with the new FM, the public would be well informed on happenings in government circle.

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Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in Ekiti State, Mr. Akingbade Bamidele, has raised the alarm over the increase in the cultivation and consumption of cannabis in the state.

Speaking in Ado-Ekiti, the state capital, Bamidele condemned the situation and called on the state government and other stakeholders to partner with the agency in order to control the menace.

Also, he called on the state government to establish a rehabilitation centre to take care of drug addicts that needed counselling by the agency.

He said that 58 people were prosecuted last year out of which 33 were convicted, adding that the agency also seized substances totaling 2,985.001 kg made up of 2,901 kg of cannabis and 85 kg of other dangerous drugs.

He said the agency discovered five farms spread across the state and destroyed 255 acres of land in Omu-Aran; Ise-Orun; Ire-Ekiti in Oye Local Government, Agbonri Camp and two other farms in Ilejemeje in Ipere Ekiti, where cannabis were cultivated.

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FG to eradicate guinea worm this year, says health minister

22 MARCH 2011 LINUS OOTA HITS:   
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THE Federal Government plans to overcome the challenge of Guinea-worm disease and achieve an increase in community awareness from the current level of about 32 per cent to, at least, 80 per cent by the end of the year.

The Minister of Health, Prof Onyebuchi Chukwu, who said this, spoke yesterday in Abuja on the occasion of this year's Guinea-worm Disease Eradication Day press briefing.

He said that achieving nationwide coverage and documentation of guinea-worm disease surveillance, as well as response through the establishment of a database in health facilities within the national integrated disease surveillance and response system, among others, were the priorities of the government.

The minister was represented by the Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Mr. Linus Awute.

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