

# Pregnant woman killed as Navy, militants battle

**N**IGERIAN troops yesterday successfully repelled what might have been an armed attack on one of the country's largest oil export terminal.

Meanwhile, a pregnant woman, Mrs. Effiong Willie was killed in the crossfire.

Foreign Affairs Minister Ojo Maduekwe also reassured the global business family, last night saying that the President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua's government was effectively in control of the situation.

## waso 've expired – Shekarau

are what somebody called  
- 'food is ready' politician.

"When he was in PDP, he moved to AC, but before he moved to AC, he had moved to ACD. But he discovered that food was not ready, so now he is back to PDP because the party has won at the national level and food is likely to be ready," he said.

On the ANPP's withdrawal of petition at the tribunal against President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, Shekarau said that it was a collective decision of the party. He declared that there was nothing wrong in the decision of Buhari to continue his petition at the tribunal.

Giving detailed explanation on how ANPP arrived at the decision to participate in the Yar'Adua administration, the Kano governor insisted that all the party's organs and stakeholders were fully involved in the arrangement.

He said: "you see, party politics is all about people. Party politics is about collective decision, party politics is about collective decision, party politics is about being guided by the rules of the game."

"I am not a member of PDP, I am a member of

## •Over oil platform

Suspected militants attacked Ibeno jetty in Eket local government area of Akwa Ibom state.

The militants overpowered some Navy personnel on location and snatched two machine guns and two police boats, according to Reuters which recalled last night that it was the third raid on a major oil facility in Africa's largest producer since the arrest of a militant leader last September, 2007.

ANPP. Our party decided to accept innovation by the president to participate in his government. When we got the invitation, the leadership of the party met, looked at the constitutionality of the request. We listed six conditions which must be met before agreeing to the request. With all due respect, Buhari was aware of all this. The government wrote back and said that it was accepting our six conditions.

"The party called several meetings of all caucuses, national working committee, stakeholders and the National Executive Committee, which is the highest decision making organ of the party and everybody agreed on the decision of the party. And that was how we arrived at the decision to join the GNU."

Like I said, party politics is about collective decision.

The majority will always have its way on any issue, that is democracy. Democracy is about majority decision. The issue was not that the chairman of the party and a few people sat and decided, not all the stakeholders in the party took a decision."

Also, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) said the attackers snatched two machine guns from Navy guards at the terminal and blew up two police boats.

Industry sources said the attackers came in eight speed boats, but an unnamed spokeswoman for ExxonMobil said the attack was repelled by security agencies and the shooting had stopped by about 1 p.m. (local time), according to Reuters.

"There was no impact to our facilities or personnel, but I don't know about the security agencies who responded to the attack," the spokeswoman said even as it transpired that workers were locked down in secure areas of the terminal, but oil and gas production was not affected. No tanker was loading crude oil at the time.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack, though industry sources feared that the militants pulled back perhaps only by to launch another assault later. The military sent reinforcements to the area, located on the southeastern coast but Maduekwe said government was "on top of the situation".

Maduekwe told journalists in Abuja: "We are also in close contact with Sao Tome and Principe to make sure that they do not get stuck or have difficulties similar to the last government that was sent packing."

"We believe there is a need for some democratic principles to be set and be adequately entrenched in the region".

Maduekwe also dispelled fears on the presence of foreign troops in the Gulf of Guinea, saying that Nigeria did not have to be there for strategic reasons.