

30 Bakassi returnees drown, 200 missing

TOM MOSES

OVER 30 Bakassi natives sacked by Cameroonian gendarmes from their ceded territory in the Republic of Cameroon yesterday, perished

on their way to Calabar following a mishap involving two ferries which were conveying them along Ineh Obodom channel through the Atlantic Ocean.

Also, over 200 natives of the

area were reportedly missing as at the time of the arrival of the last set of the Bakassi evictees, while four persons including a four year old Miss Endurance Clement died within the period of their transiting from the old

Bakassi Penninsula.

Leader of the Bakassi returnees, Mr. Etim Okon Eneh who said this in a chat with our Correspondent at Ikang Primary School, New Bakassi where they are being kept, lamented the maltreatment meted to them by Cameroon Gendarmes within the past few weeks before their eventual eviction.

According to Eneh, the Gendarmes animosity became really manifest soon after their independent anniversary, a few weeks ago following the questionable disappearance of some Bakassi indigenes from their fishing settlements and some from their canoes.

Such disappearances, he said, made the Bakassi youths to initiate search parties and mount vigilante posts and

even confronted the Cameroon gendarmes on the issue of the missing Bakassi natives.

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55 contractors sue FG

ABOUT 55 indigenous contractors yesterday filed respective suits challenging the constitutionality of the Federal Government's revocation of a N37 billion health care project.

The administration of former President Olusegun Obasanjo had approved the project for all the 774

local government councils to improve accessibility to health at the grass roots.

The National Economic Council (NEC) under the President Umaru Yar'Adua's administration, however, revoked the contract on Dec. 10, 2007.

In the suit filed before the Federal High Court, Abuja, the

plaintiffs contended that the revocation of the contract was unconstitutional, null and void and a violation of their rights.

The contractors are seeking the court order setting aside the purported termination of the contract.

Defendants to the suit are, NEC, Attorney General of the

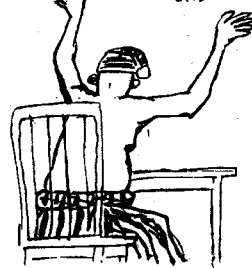
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Group commends INEC P.41

COUNTRYMAN

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—NEWS



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PEACE WILL SOON RETURN
TO THIS COUNTRY