

Gunmen kill policeman, 2 others

DENNIS NAKU, *Port Harcourt*
and TERFA AYAGA, *Yola*

A mobile policeman was among three persons shot dead on Sunday by gunmen in Eleme, Rivers State and Yola, Adamawa State.

Corporal Vincent Andrew was felled by suspected kidnappers while attempting to resist the hoodlums who stormed a church to kidnap Reverend Olaka Osaronu and his wife at Eleme.

However, two persons, Babaji Abdullahi, a meat seller and Hassan Maishayi, a trader, were shot dead at the main gate of the Federal University of Technology Yola, Adamawa State capital.

According to sources, the shooting created panic as residents and students scammed for safety after the criminals entered the popular Jagajaga market near the university's gate.

The gunmen were said to have shot sporadically into the air, to scare people at the market before killing the deceased persons at about 8.30 pm.

A source said the criminals might not have targetted money or other valuables, but members of rival cult groups in the university.

Adamawa Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Altine Daniel while confirming the shooting, said the deceased persons were a meat seller and a tea seller.

Daniel gave the name of the meat seller as Babaji Abdullahi, aged 35 and hails from Kano, while the tea seller identified as Hassan Maishayi, aged 40, hails from Damagaram in the Niger Republic.

He said one of the casualties dropped dead on the way to the hospital while the other one gave up the ghost at the hospital.

Daniel told correspondents that 12 shells of a gun suspected to be that of an AK 47 rifle, were picked at the scene of the

shooting.

According to the police spokesperson, the two assailants were alleged to have come on foot and left on foot immediately they unleashed mayhem.

"All options are open to launch a thorough investigation to unravel the mastermind of the shooting. He pleaded with the public to assist the police with relevant tips that could lead to the arrest of the gunmen.

Meanwhile, unknown gunmen yesterday kidnapped the Managing Director of Devi Hotel, Mr. Kenneth Abali, in Port Harcourt, just as a mobile policeman was shot dead while trying to foil the abduction of a family.

The kidnappers have stormed the hotel Tuesday afternoon and reportedly snatched Abali without any resistance and reportedly

took him away to an unknown destination.

No group has claimed responsibility for the abduction, even as the assailants are yet to contact the family of their victim to demand any ransom.

Meanwhile, a bold attempt to abduct a cleric, identified as Reverend Olaka Osaronu, his wife and driver from the Commonwealth Church in Ebubu, Eleme Local Government Area on Sunday, was foiled.

They were said to be going home after a church service when a gang of kidnappers stopped the car conveying them but his police orderly, Corporal Vincent Andrew who tried to resist the hoodlums was shot dead.

While Andrew battled the kidnappers alone, it gave an

opportunity for his boss and his family to run for safety, as they reportedly fled into the bush and out of sight of the assailants, who killed the lone policeman.

Contacted on the incident, the State Police Public Relations Officer, Dr. (Mrs.) Rita Inoma-Abbey, confirmed the incident to *Daily Champion*. She said the late Andrew was on a special duty from Police Mobile Force Unit 1, Kaduna and attached to the man of God before he met his untimely death.

Inoma-Abbey, a Superintendent of Police (SP), said no arrest has been made, but that the police would ensure that the cleric is released unhurt.

She said anti-kidnap squad was already on the trail of the hoodlums.

NAMA suspends services to debtor airlines

ANTHONY OMOH

MANAGEMENT of the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) has restated its determination to deny airlines indebted to the agency, navigational services including that of Air Traffic Controllers (ATC) as well as the use of the agency's enroute navigational aids.

Speaking to journalists yesterday in Lagos, Managing Director of the agency, Ibrahim Auyo, said there was no going back on denying debtor airlines of NAMA services today as only three airlines and a helicopter service company have made moves to offset debt owed the agency.

Aero, Dana, Air Nigeria and Calverton Helicopters have made moves to offset their debts while others including Arik, which is a major debtor have shown no interest whatsoever.

Auyo said the agency would not ground any airline but would deny them of navigation services which it provides for a fee to sustain its operations and maintain hi-tech equipment that are scattered all over the country.

The NAMA managing director stated that the law establishing the agency gave it powers to provide services and charge for the services, adding that without money NAMA cannot sustain the security of the airspace.

"We cannot survive without money. Our airspace is very safe and we do not want anything that will threaten it," he said.

He said in line with the new system, airlines that want to continue to operate flights must pay for the current charges immediately and that in the last meeting with stakeholders in the industry which saw the Minister of Aviation, Mrs. Fidelia Njeze, in attendance, it was

agreed that the accumulated debts should be paid within 36 months beginning from June 2010.

He said IRS airlines has paid for two weeks in the 'Pay As You Go' regime, adding that it is expecting other airlines to do same. On the fate of debtor airlines that are no longer carrying out flight operations, Auyo said the agency has met with the affected airlines and that they have agreed to abide by the new payment system when they start operating again.

Spseaking on the issue, the assistant secretary general of Airline Operators of Nigeria (AON), Muhammed Tukur, advised the domestic airlines to comply with NAMA's directives, noting that NAMA will use the money to provide and service its navigational equipment. Tukur stated that NAMA has the right to charge airlines for the service it renders going by the law establishing it.