

# Gunmen kill 23 in midnight attack

It was a tragic Independence Day anniversary residents of Lingyado Village in Maru Local Government of Zamfara, as no fewer than 23 persons were confirmed killed yesterday following a midnight attack by suspected armed bandits. Commissioner of Police

in Zamfara, Alhaji Tambari Muhammed Yabo, who confirmed the incident in Gusau, said the incident was believed to be a reprisal attack by a group of aggrieved herdsmen.

Yabo said the first report reaching him, stated that the villagers allegedly

supported a vigilante group about three months ago, to attack some herdsmen, some of who were killed and their cows confiscated.

"The herdsmen claimed that some of the confiscated cows were found at Bena Village in Kebbi and vowed to take revenge anytime

they have the opportunity," the police commissioner said.

He said the incident was not an armed robbery attack as earlier reported, but purely a reprisal attack.

Yabo, however, said the police had not made any arrest in connection with the incident.

He warned that anybody caught breaching the existing peace in the state would face the wrath of the law.

Meanwhile, a survivor of the incident, Mallam Shehu Danmalam, said the bandits operated with Ak47 rifles and other sophisticated weapons.

Danmalam said the hoodlums invaded the village at about 1 am on

Saturday and opened fire sporadically while the inhabitants slept.

He said the unsuspecting villagers were at the mercy of the attackers, who killed men, women and children.

Meanwhile, NAN learnt that Lingyado village has been deserted for fear of possible further attacks.

In related development, gunmen, who last Friday boarded an ExxonMobil oil platform, off Akwa Ibom coastline, wounded one person on board and abducted another.

The Management of Mobil Producing Nigeria, the local unit of the US oil major, ExxonMobil has confirmed the incident in a statement released last Friday.

"Mobil Producing Nigeria (MPN), operator of the joint venture with the NNPC, confirms that in the early hours of Friday, some armed men attacked a supply vessel near one of our platforms, offshore Akwa Ibom State.

"One person on the vessel was injured and another was taken away to an unknown destination," Gloria Essien Dannar, MPN spokesperson, said in a statement.

"The incident has been reported to security and relevant government agencies," MPN said.

Mobil operates the 960,000 barrels per day crude export terminal off Ibom shoreline in Akwa Ibom.

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He debunked speculation in the state that he has fallen out with Enugu State Governor Sullivan Chime rather he attributed his lack of visibility in the state to additional responsibilities that has to do with his office.

Ekweremadu, who described Chime as his friend and brother, said he is not the type of politician that meddles in the affairs of his state, and added that the governor has been giving him updates on

country as a failed state.

Meanwhile, a group known as the Coalition for the Defense of Sexual Rights has faulted the position of the National Assembly on the Same Sex Bill currently being deliberated by the assembly.

The position of the group was contained in a press statement signed by Dorothy Aken'Ova and Akoro Joseph Sewedo and made available to

ominous bill, and consider instead discussing life saving legislation, including the Anti-Stigmatization bill and National Health Insurance bill," maintained the group.

The group argued that the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, in its Article 7, specifically provides that "everyone has the right, individually and in association with others to develop and

## Minimum wage

## OPC calls for dialogue with Boko Haram