



# Daily Champion

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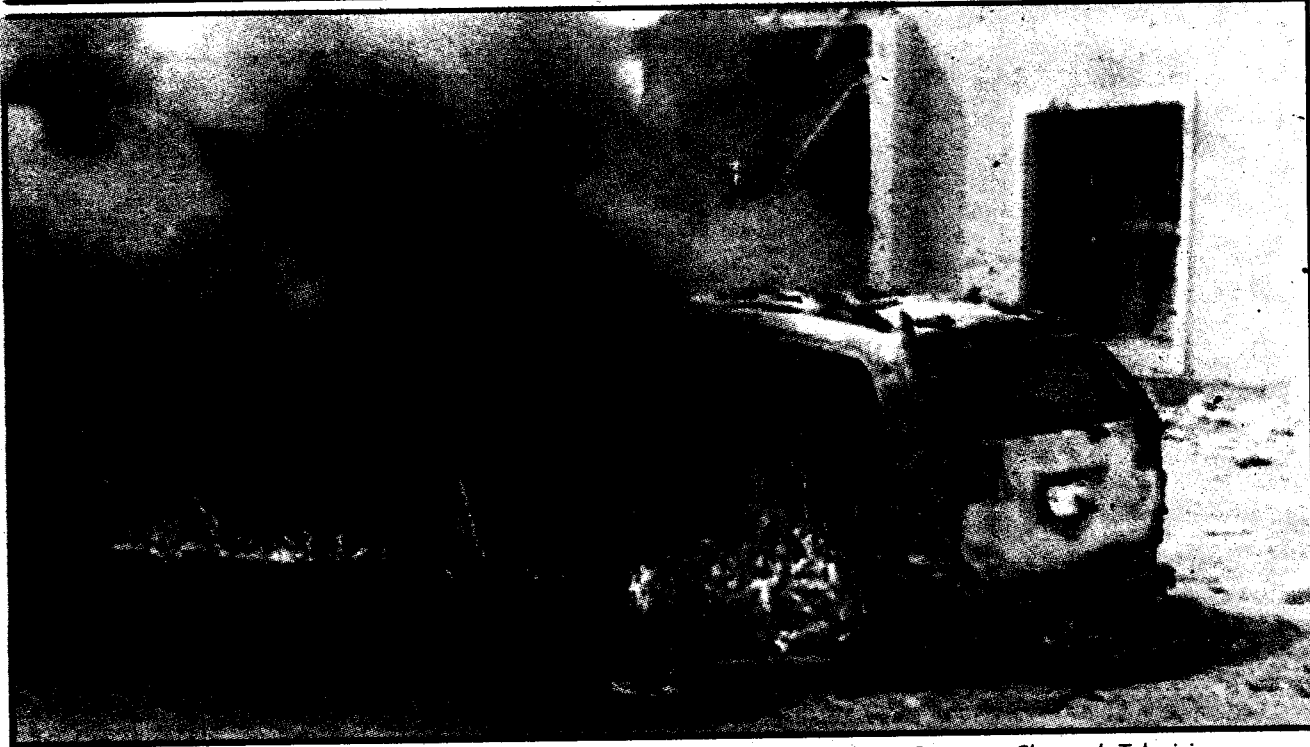
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One of the cars used by the suicide bombers to attack Jaji Military barracks, Kaduna. Courtesy: Channels Television

## Reps query Ministry of Works over N3.3bn contracts

CHUKWU DAVID, Abuja

HOUSE of Representatives Committee on Public Accounts has queried the Federal Ministry of Works over alleged impropriety in the handling of and payment for two road contracts worth N3.3 billion.

This is sequel to queries raised by the Office of the Auditor-General of the Federation on the two road projects under the supervision of the Ministry of Works.

The first contract worth N2.3 billion was in Nassarawa State and was initially awarded by the Nassarawa State Government for N77 million, but re-awarded by the Federal Government for N2.3b on the excuse that it was a Federal

Road.

The Committee has summoned a former member of the House of Representatives, Nicholas Ukachukwu who facilitated the contracts at both state and federal levels in order to give clarification on the transaction.

It also queried the Ministry over another N1.045 billion contract for Nsukka-Adani road in Enugu State. The

Continues on Pg 6

## NEMA prepares against Dry Season fires

CLEMENT NWOJI, Abuja

NATIONAL Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has commenced precautionary measures against out break of dry season fire with the inauguration of a technical committee to map out the most vulnerable areas.

This was in early preparation against any likelihood of future re-occurrence of disasters including bush and market fire

Continues on Pg 6

# 30 killed, 40 injured as suicide bombers hit military barracks

## Gunmen kill man, wife, child in Kano

KANO returned to the boiling point yesterday, as gunmen riding on a motorbike shot and killed a man, his wife and one kid at close range as he driving out of his residence at Cornan Masalachi in Naibawa. He was reported to be going for church service.

The gruesome killing

would be the fifth in the series within one month in the same Naibawa vicinity, which is fast becoming notorious for serial killings

It was gathered that one of the son, who was in the vehicle at the time of the attack escaped unhurt but his parents were unlucky.

An eyewitness said the

victims, riding in a red Golf car were reversing out of their compound, as there were other vehicles parked in the premises in a single file formation, when the two gunmen riding on motorbike from nowhere shot and killed them instantly.

Moments after the

gunmen escaped from the scene. Operatives of the Joint Task Force (JTF), backed with an armoured tank arrived and cordoned off the area, while some of the security men spread to the adjoining streets, which they combed for a possible clue to tracking down the

Continues on Pg 6

## Senate grills NCAA over 'invincible projects'

ANTHONY OMOH

IN what can be described as a mock comedy show, the Senate Committee on Aviation last Friday grilled a lack-lustre Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) management that could not explain the simple basics of their job descriptions.

The team led by Senator

Hope Uzodinma stormed the regulators complex by 11am and got down to their oversight business asking the regulators, led by the acting Director General Engineer Emmanuel Usifo to make available budget of their capital projects and other

Continues on Pg 6





# 30 killed, 40 injured as suicide bombers hit military barracks

**T**ERRORISM by Islamic sect Boko Haram took another dimension yesterday, as two suicide bombers attacked a Protestant church in Kaduna military barracks. Thirty persons were killed and at least 40 injured in the attack.

Abusladen with explosives first rammed into St Andrew Military Protestant Church in the military barracks in Jaji in Kaduna state, Director of Army Public Relations Brig Gen Bola Koleoso said.

"A Kia branded car drove into the church premises ... and detonated," said the

source. "Then an ash-colored Toyota Camry drove in and exploded while people came to help after the first bomb. Most people died from the second blast."

*Daily Champion* gathered through the first blast caused no casualties, the second blast however did as curious worshippers gathered around the scene of the first blast looking at the debris of the initial explosion.

Jaji is a symbolic target as it is home to the Armed Forces Command and Staff College, one of the country's most

important military colleges, training Nigerian and foreign navy, air force and army officers.

The attack comes two days after a special military taskforce announced that it would be giving a total of 1.8 million dollars (£1.1m) in rewards for information that could lead to the arrest of top Boko Haram members.

The twin blasts also came a month after another church was attacked in the city of Kaduna, about 25 miles away from Jaji.

In that attack, a suicide

bomber rammed a 4x4 vehicle loaded with explosives into St Rita's Catholic Church holding Mass on October 28 in Kaduna, killing at least seven people and wounding more than 100 others, authorities said.

The killings sparked instant reprisals in a city with a history of religious violence, leaving at least two more people dead.

This is the second bombing this year, targeted at military barracks of the Nigerian Army in Kaduna state with the explosions at the 1st Mechanised Division of the Nigerian Army, Kaduna in February.

Kaduna has also witnessed a number of other explosions this year with some targeted

at worship centres.

The February bombings were a coordinated bomb explosions in three different parts of the city.

In August, a bomb explosion occurred in Kaduna metropolis, killing at least four people along Ali Akilu road between Abakpa Total/Shagalinku.

In September, a series of bomb explosions rocked the city of Zaria in Kaduna state, killing at least 3 people and injuring several others. The blast which took place at Tukur area near Barewa College occurred when soldiers of the Joint Task Force (JTF) stormed some buildings which were inhabited by suspected members of Boko Haram sect.

Koleoso said that investigations had begun into the incident, while the army has restricted movement into the Jaji facility.

However, no group has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

The bombing was confirmed by Nigeria's National Emergency Management spokesman Yushua Shuaib, who said the explosion took place after a service inside the church.

This came barely 24 hours after the Nigerian army on Saturday offered N300 million for information leading to the capture leading members of the group.

Since Boko Haram began an insurgency in 2009, it is believed to have killed at least 2,800 people, according to the group Human Rights Watch.

*Continued from Pg 1*

lawmakers were particularly interested in why the Ministry overpaid the contractor N22 million two years after he abandoned the road project.

The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, Solomon Olamilekan Adeola expressed surprise at the payment, saying, "how come the Federal Ministry of Works issued certificates for further payments to the contractor in 2005 and 2006 even though the contract was terminated in 2004?"

But the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Abubakar Mohammed, could not give satisfactory answers to the queries of the Committee members; rather he further surprised the Committee when he said the contractor involved in the Nassarawa contract took the Federal Government to court and the court ordered the

## Reps

government to pay N1.3 billion

Also commenting on the Nassarawa State contract, a member of the Committee, Uche Ekwunife demanded that the Bills of Quantity of both contracts—that of N77m and the inflated N2.3 million—be brought before the committee for proper verification.

She insisted that the inflated contract should be properly looked into via the Bills of Quantity so that the issue could be resolved as the termination of the contract calls for a lot of questions.

Mohammed was short of words as he claimed that the Bills of Quantity of the Nassarawa Government was not available though both contracts at the state and federal levels had been terminated.

Another member of the Committee, Pally Iriase noted that it was ridiculous to claim that there was a judgement debt of N1.3 billion awarded against the Federal Government concerning a project that was abandoned in the first place.

But the Permanent Secretary said the judgement against the government was because the Federal Government sold some of the equipment of the company to recover the mobilization paid.

On the N1.045 billion Enugu contract awarded to Echo Nig. Ltd and which had reached 69 percent completion before its termination, the Committee faulted the explanation of the Permanent Secretary that there was a mutual agreement between the contractor and the Ministry for termination without compensation.

*Continued from Pg 1*

projects embarked upon by the regulators

The acting DG however told the Chairman of the committee, Hope Uzodinma that there was no visible project and that all the NCAA did was training.

This piqued the committee's interest as they started providing capital projects embarked on the CAA that have been paid for including the upgrade of the tracking consol as provided by the body to track aircraft and the consol of the calibration jet handed over to the Nigeria Airspace Management Agency (NAMA).

The committee also cited building construction ongoing in the regional offices of the regulatory body in Kano and Port Harcourt stating that money was going in there but the regulatory body

## Senate

management was oblivious of that with the building being incomplete.

Another Senator who queried the NCAA management team present said: "You cannot remember the name of the contractor yet you have paid all his money. I am concerned about the capacity of work done it is worrisome that payment is done without knowing the amount of work done."

With this the Senate asked for all the agency's training documents and the cost.

When asked about the Performance based Navigation (PBN), no one in the entire management team could answer correctly as they said that the PBN was aerial mapping of the Nigerian airspace.

PBN is actually linked with satellite navigation of

aircraft in flight with lesser or no dependence with the terrestrial navigation.

This and many others flared the committee which responded through its chairman, "You have to treat us like people with basic knowledge and understanding the National Assembly cannot just sit down and begin to approve what they cannot justify."

"If we don't have clear understanding of how you have spent money, appropriated to you last year, it will be difficult to release money to a body that has no sense of accountability."

The Senate eventually called off the tour of the NCAA Complex and instead of going ahead to visit the Annex of the Authority to see other projects went straight to the Aero terminal to board flight to Port Harcourt Airport in furtherance of their oversight functions.

*Continued from Pg 1*

during the Harmattan and dry season. It also warned road users against reckless driving during the Ember months.

Director General NEMA Muhammad Sani-Sidi said this at the weekend in Abuja and solicited the cooperation of the stakeholders and supports of international agencies to protect the communities and build the culture of disaster resilience among the people.

He spoke while receiving a team from the United Kingdom Cabinet Office Briefing Room led by Mr Nick Gibbons and the newly appointed Commander of the Nigerian Air Force Abuja Camp Group Captain Joseph Malgwi.

He said: "We have mobilised our stakeholders and volunteers to be prepared in the likelihood of massive fire incidents in Markets, Farmlands and forests in the Harmattan and dry season due to indiscriminate storage of inflammable and bush burning."

"We are closely monitoring the traffic in collaboration with our stakeholders during mass-rush of commuters in Ember months so as to minimise risks of road accidents that could involve fuel tankers. While mobile ambulances are strategically stationed in prone areas, sensitization campaigns are essential to reduce the vulnerabilities."

According to a release by NEMA Head of public

## NEMA

relations, Yushua Shuaib, Sani-Sidi explained that the experiences from the unprecedented flood was a challenge that required synergy among the stake holders including the states and local governments as Nigeria has capabilities to address different kinds of disasters given the necessary cooperation and supports.

However, Sani-Sidi said the Agency has already developed a National Contingency Plan to guide timely response to any sudden onset emergency in the country.

In their separate remarks, Mr Gibbons said his team was at the Agency to explore areas of cooperation to assist the country while Group Captain Malgwi said the visit was to strengthen existing working relationship between NEMA and the NAF unit.

Meanwhile, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, has condemned Sunday's bomb blast which claimed multiple lives at the Jaji Military Cantonment in Kaduna State.

In a statement issued in Port Harcourt by his Special Adviser on Media and Public Affairs, Mallam Imam, Tambuwal urged the security agencies not to despair over the attack on their facilities.

He said no religion condones attack on innocent

worshippers, and urged all those behind the bombings to stop forthwith.

While grieving with the families of those who lost loved ones in the unfortunate attack in Jaji, Tambuwal prayed for the quick recovery for those injured in the bombings.

He restated the commitment of the House of Representatives to do everything possible to assist security and other relevant agencies to tackle the problems of insecurity in the country.

## 3 killed in Taraba crisis

EMMANUEL AWARI - Jalingo

**A**T least three persons were killed and 200 arrested after a clash between Christians and Muslims in Ibi town headquarters of Ibi LG, Taraba state.

*Daily Champion* gathered that the crisis in which property worth millions of Naira were destroyed was allegedly caused by blockage of road.

An eyewitness said some Muslim youths were prevented from passing through the road during church service which resulted in a shouting match between Muslim youths

fleeing suspects.

According to a source, before the arrival of security men to the scene, sympathizers, who were frightened, had already gathered at the spot but scared to move close to the attacked vehicle, the interior

and members of the Boys Brigade, thereby attracting worshipers in the church. This was later to degenerate to a clash.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) DSP Amose Olawoye in a telephone chat confirmed the incident but debunked the rumor that more than four people were killed.

He said only one person that lost his life and that the police have arrested 200 persons suspected to be behind the crisis. He called on people in the area to cooperate with the police to arrest the perpetrators and bring back peace in the area.

## Gunmen

of which was smeared with blood of the three victims.

Meanwhile, the police had evacuated the bodies of the deceased to the mortuary for autopsy.

Contacted, the Kano State Police Command

Meanwhile, the state government has announced curfew in the area to avoid escalation of the crisis. The information, culture and tourism commissioner, Mr. Emmanuel Bello in a telephone chat said the state government was saddened over the crisis and that it was doing its best to restore normally in the area.

The southern part of Taraba state which comprises Ibi, Wukari, Takum, Ussa and Donga has for long been faced with various forms of crisis which include ethnic or religious such as Jukun verses Kutebs or Tivs, verse Verbal.

Public Relations officer (PPRO), ASP Magaji Majia, who confirmed the incident, disclosed that on arrival of security operatives to the scene, they conveyed the man to the hospital, who was still alive, while his wife and kid were taken to the mortuary.

However, he disclosed that the man, who was said to have hailed from Owerri, Imo State died moments on arrival in the hospital, where he was rushed to for medical attention.

According to the PPRO, one of the man's sons, who was in the vehicle at the time of the attack escaped unhurt, adding that the Police has begun investigations into the incident and appealed to members of the public, with valuable information to assist the Police towards their efforts to apprehend the fleeing gunmen.

It should be recalled that within the month of November, gunmen, riding on a motorbike, shot and killed a Kano State lawmaker, a police officer and three others in the Naibawa area of Kano.

Taraba Ibi 3