

**VISIT...** (L-r) President, Nigeria Computer Science, Sir Demola Aladekomo; Governor State of Osun, Rauf Aregbesola; Chairman Conferences of Nigeria Computer Science, Professor Adesola Aderomu and Arch-Bishop of Lagos Anglican Communion, Bishop Adebayo Akinde, during a Courtesy visit to the Governor in his office, Osogbo the State of Osun yesterday.

# Communal clash: Policeman, 11 others killed in Bayelsa

CHINEDU WOSU, Yenagba

At least 12 persons including a Policeman and 11 youths were yesterday killed in a bloody chieftaincy tussle in Bayelsa State among youths of Agbere Community in Sagbama Local Government Area

Agbere community serve as host community to major oil exploration companies, the Nigerian Agip company (ENI) and the Shell Petroleum and Development Company

(SPDC).

The suspected 11 youths were killed during free for all among the angry youths with guns and other dangerous weapons freely used, while the policeman met his Waterloo during an invasion launched on the Police Post in the community.

Our correspondent gathered that the cold war existing between the youths loyal to the Paramount Ruler of the community degenerated into full scale crisis following the report

of the Commission set up by the Local Government council on the issue of who to emerge the permanent ruler of the community.

The report, according to sources, recommended that the Acting Paramount Ruler be made a permanent Ruler and such recommendation provoked a section of the community and they went on rampage.

Reliable sources told our correspondent that following the sack of the Former Traditional ruler, Chief Aziza

Ekade by the Chief Timpre Sylva Administration for alleged violation of existing chieftaincy laws and the emergence of Chief Victor Alali as Acting paramount ruler, the peace in the community became fragile.

Sources confirmed to newsmen that the home of the Acting Paramount ruler has been set ablaze by rampaging youths and other homes of prominent indigenes set on fire.

Daily Champion reports that State commissioner of Police, Mike Omieri has deployed armed Mobile Policemen to the troubled community in-conjunction with the deployment of men of the Joint Military Task Force code named Operation Pulo Shield.

Speaking at the development chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Mr. Daniel Markson-Iworiso said though the situation has been brought under control, the state government will not condone such acts of lawlessness and criminality; "anybody indicted over the crisis will be made to face the full weight of law and be prosecuted. We hereby warn any aggrieved section of the society to pursue a legitimate means of resolving conflict and channel grievances through the proper channel."

## Lack of family planning hinders economic development — Experts

AKOR SYLVESTER, Abuja

STAKEHOLDERS in the health sector yesterday attributed Nigeria's under development, insecurity and many challenges in other sectors of the economy to lack of family planning culture in the country.

Addressing newsmen at a press conference on the flag-off the National Family Planning Conference in Abuja, the Chairman, Family Action Planning Group, Prof Oladapo Ladipo lamented the ravaging crisis in all domains of the economy; education, health, road, agriculture and security.

He said, "If you reduce the family size to a number

that is commensurable, there'll be enough to invest in healthcare, education and others and also be able to empower women."

According to Ladipo, without mainstreaming family planning to national activities, the nation cannot achieve the MDGs by 2015, adding that other Asian Tiger countries that have embraced family planning have success stories to tell.

Ladipo who disclosed that the conference seeks to promote qualitative reproduction and birth spacing in Nigeria, said, "What is the wisdom in family planning? There is wisdom to lower fertility in order to

stimulate economic growth"

He maintained that there is no law now or in future to enforce family planning and future, and that it is voluntary, adding, "you don't have to do any research. It is palpable; it is visible seeing the challenges of a huge population"

In her remarks, the co-chairman of the local organizing committee of the conference, Mrs. Mairo Mandara, said some of the challenges to maternal health today in the country is because women are not planning their family in a way that will make them healthier.

She said, "Family planning promotes healthy living for the whole family."

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