

# Gunmen kill 20 in market attack

**D**ARK days of massive killings by terrorists returned yesterday, as gunmen killed 25 people in two separate attacks in Borno and Kano. The attackers appeared to have targeted gamblers and people selling 'forbidden' meat that Islamist militants disapprove of, officials and locals said

yesterday. In the deadliest attack, late on Monday, gunmen opened fire at a market in the town of Damboa, targeting local hunters who sell bush meat from animals such as monkeys and pigs, which strict Muslims are forbidden to eat, a local official said.

"Gunmen suspected to be members of Boko Haram came to the town market and shot dead 15 local hunters on the spot while five others died from their injuries at the hospital," Alhaji Abba Ahmed said. "They came to the market in a Volkswagen Golf car, carried out the operation and left."

In a separate attack in the north's biggest city of Kano, some 500 km (310 miles) west of Damboa, yesterday, suspected Boko Haram members riding on motorbikes shot dead five people playing an outdoor board game, witnesses and a hospital source who received the bodies said. Two others were wounded.

Damboa is in the remote northeast, the sect's heartland near the borders with Niger, Cameroon and Chad.

Boko Haram wants to carve an Islamic state out of Nigeria, a country of 170 million people split roughly evenly between Christians and Muslims. The insurgency is seen as the top security threat to Africa's leading oil and gas producer.

Nigeria plans to deploy around 1,200 troops as part of a West African intervention force to combat Islamist militants occupying the north of Mali, and officials fear Nigeria's involvement could further inflame its own insurgency.

Meanwhile, President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday in Geneva said tackling global jihadists was in Nigeria's

interest because of the links between its Islamists and those in the desert states to the north, like Mali. An Islamist group known as Ansaru, which has been blamed for abducting and killing Westerners, claimed responsibility for an attack on Nigerian troops heading to Mali on Sunday that killed two officers.

Boko Haram's long-bearded members practice a strict Wahhabist version of Islam that regards anyone who disagrees with it as infidels. They frequently target bars and other forms of entertainment.

Militants have killed several hundred people in the past three years in a campaign to impose sharia, Islamic law, on Nigeria. Their targets include the security forces and churches, although they have killed more Muslims than Christians.

Meanwhile, the Kano State Government yesterday banned the activities of commercial motorcyclists in the state from January 24.

Deputy Governor of the state, Dr Abdullahi Ganduje, who announced the ban in a broadcast in Kano, said the

measure became imperative considering the current situation in the state.

The ban is coming in the wake of last Saturday's attack on the convoy of the Emir of Kano, Alhaji Ado Bayero.

Ganduje said: "The action became imperative so as to ensure that all commercial activities of motorcyclists in the state were registered in their local government as part of government measures to ensure security in the state."

He said the ban would take effect on all commercial activities of the motorcyclists from January 24, adding that the attack on emir's convoy shook the city of Kano.

Reacting to the ban, the National President Amalgamated Commercial Owners/Riders Association of Nigeria, Mallam Muhammad Hassan, however, described the development as "unpleasant and highly devastating".

Hassan said no fewer than 1.5 million people would be rendered jobless by the government's pronouncement.

He then called on the government to come up with a new measure that could create job opportunities for the people that were rendered jobless by the new policy.

## Jonathan must address Nigerians on state of nation — Senate

**A** bill seeking to provide a formal and mandatory platform where the president will present the account of his stewardship for public scrutiny passed second reading at the Senate.

This was as the Senate threatened to arrest any government official who failed to appear before Senate standing committee investigating employment racketeering in the Civil Service.

The bill entitled; a Bill for an Act to Prescribe for An Annual State of the Nation Address and Other Matters Connected therewith, scaled its second reading in Abuja on Tuesday.

The Deputy Senate President, Ike Ekweremadu, who led the debate, said that democracy was not just about elections, irrespective of how free and fair they were.

Ekweremadu said beyond election was governance, the bill sought to uphold the right of the people to hold their president accountable, take stock of the nation and make governance more open and participatory.

He said when the "State

of the Nation Address Bill" became law, it would usher Nigeria into an old democratic convention in both advanced and fledgling democracies around the world.

"One of such is the United States of America which model we are copying and which has enjoyed the dividends of this address for over 220 years.

"The U.S Constitution in Article II, Section 3 provides that the president shall from time to time give to the congress information of the state of the union.

"It also provides that the president shall recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient," he said.

He said since the former US President, George Washington, delivered the first address on January 8, 1970; it had matured to a major international event which was watched live by millions around the world.

This, he said, was because it served as an opportunity for the president to account to the people through their

representatives and unveil policy thrusts and other critical issues.

He also cited other countries where the state of the nation address was been practiced to include Russia, Ghana, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mexico among others.

The deputy senate president said the world had embraced this value and Nigeria could not be odd, especially when it should be leading the way in democratic best practices in Africa and beyond.

Ekweremadu said the bill was not new to the senate since he had sponsored it in the 6th Senate and it was passed by the National Assembly but unfortunately did not receive presidential assent.

He said the bill had to be reintroduced in the pursuit of what had become a democratic norm, especially the principles of accountability and transparency which were the bedrock of democracy.

Ekweremadu said the bill was distinct from the Appropriation Bill and was in line with conventions in most democratic countries.

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Senator Abdullahi Idris.

hammer of the House of Representatives include the Minister of Petroleum, Diezani Alison-Madueke; Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Mallam Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, Accountant-General of the Federation, Jonah Otunla.

The above public officers were invited to attend the Public hearing on the implementation of the Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme, but none of them honoured the invitation.

In what was described as "intentional disrespect for parliament and its proceedings", Chairman in charge of the House Ad-hoc Committee on SURE-P probe, Dakuku Peterside, who doubles as Chairman, House Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream) accused the ministers of deliberate contempt.

While suspending the public hearing for a later date, Peterside stated that aside SURE-P Chairman, Dr Christopher Kolade all other invitees did not inform him or the Committee of reasons why they could not appear at the meeting.

Rep. Peterside further warned that the committee

## Reps

would not hesitate to explore all legal provisions available to Parliament to compel appearance of the ministers, including issuing a warrant of arrest, if need be.

He said: "We are absolutely not happy with developments today. You may have observed that all the critical persons we need to proceed are not here. Starting from the Chairman of SURE-P, Christopher Kolade that we excused since he obtained an excuse not to be in this proceeding, all the honourable ministers we invited are not here. The CBN Governor is not here and the Committee interprets this to be an intentional disrespect for Parliament and its proceedings. This is totally unacceptable to us.

"Any attempt to ridicule the National Assembly of Nigeria will be resisted. We have adequate laws to ensure that we hold our people accountable for their actions and whatever office they occupy. They (ministers) hold such offices in trust for the Nigerian people. If you don't want to be involved in public service, please stay in your house.

"This intentional act of disrespect will not be condoned. I see this as

deliberate contempt. I want to appeal that in the light of this development, we cannot proceed, but let me warn that we will not tolerate it again. As for ministers, we expect certain level of ethical conduct. I can't remember anyone calling me or my clerk asking to be excused.

"With large scale fraud uncovered in the now discredited federal government's petroleum subsidy regime and the programme failing to achieve nationwide uniform fuel pricing in line with the official N97 per litre subsidized petrol rate, questions have been raised on the sustainability and need for the programme.

"PEF is a scheduled parastatal of the Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources established mainly to administer uniform prices of petroleum products throughout the country, a function not seen or felt by Nigerian consumers except through the lens of dubious payment of bridging claims to oil marketers by the fund administrators."

Citing breach of provisions of the Procurement Act, the House of Representatives in November, gave their backing to a motion seeking the suspension of work on 17 ecological projects across the country worth N3.7 billion.

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yesterday the committee, which has up to Tuesday, 29th January, 2013 to submit its report, will be made up of a Director, Special Duties, Chairman, Rep. of NPF, Vice Chairman, Director, Finance and Account, Member, Director, PID-Member, Director, PSD, Member, and three Representatives of NPF as Members.

Other members will include a Legal Adviser, Head of Budget Division, Head of Internal Audit, Head of External Audit as well as a Secretary.

The committee's terms of reference are: to ascertain the amount of funds appropriated by the Federal

## FG

Government of Nigeria to the NPF for renovations and upgrade of the Nigeria Police Institutions between 2009 and 2012 and total donations received in the period under review; to examine the budget proposed and appropriated by NPF for the Training Institutions between 2009 and 2012; verify the utilization of the appropriation to the NPF for the upgrade of facilities in the Detective College Enugu; PMF Training Schools Gwoza and Illa Oragun, ATS Training School, Nonwa Tai; as well as Police Colleges Ikeja, Kaduna, Maiduguri, Oji-

River, PTS Iperu.

The terms of reference also include: to ascertain if the Heads of the NPF Formations were regularly updating the NPF Management on the conditions of the Institutions between 2009 - 2012 and what actions were taken by the Management of NPF sequel to such; to examine the design and capacity of the institutions vis-à-vis the current number of intakes; to examine the current condition of infrastructure in all the NPF training institutions and make appropriate recommendations to government as well as consider any other matter relevant.

## Slaughter

water from the dam, only for him to pull out a knife and slaughter them in cold blood and fled."

"When the news of his deeds got into town, youths in the village mobilized themselves and searched the entire village until they caught him where he was hiding in a nearby bush."

"Thereafter they had contemplated taking him to the police but they finally resolved to met out jungle justice on him by beating him to death," he

stated.

Contacted the Secretary to the local government Mr. Mike Torkuma who confirmed the unfortunate incident said the culprit was caught by the people and beaten to death.

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Deputy Superintendent of Police Daniel Ezeala who also confirmed the incident, decried the villagers resort to jungle justice but added that the command was investigating the matter to ascertain if the man was actually insane.

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before INEC could remove the name of Oyinlola as PDP scribe.

He said a specific order had to be obtained for intensive study to know the steps to be taken by INEC.

There has not been any specific order with regards to the removal and if there

## Oyinlola

is an order directing the commission to remove his name as national secretary, then, INEC will comply.

Idowu said PDP as a party had not written to the commission on the removal of Oyinlola as its national secretary.

He said INEC, as a political umpire, would always abide by the law of the land and also ensure stability of the democratic dispensation.

It would be recalled that Oyinlola was sacked as the PDP national secretary by an Abuja High Court recently.