

# Sharia court judge killed in Bauchi

**A** Sharia court Judge was murdered. *Daily Trust* has learned.

Malam Danyaibu Musa Abdullahi 36 was said by

## oup alleges to stop flights

**Olumide Bajulaiye & Shakirat Abdulmajeed, Lagos**

rally were also unsuccessful.

NICON airways said they had no charter deal with the vice president and don't fly a scheduled service to Enugu.

Lagos station Manager of NICON Airways, Kayode Adeniran told Daily Trust that his airline has not received any directive from the minister barring it to charter plane to Vice President Atiku Abubakar.

According to him, NICON Airways carried the campaign organization of the Vice President on charter from Markurdi to Abuja last Tuesday.

Special assistant on media at the Aviation Ministry, Bayode Oladeji said the allegation was a "dirty lie from a dirty candidate."

In a statement he said: "This is yet another attempt by Atiku Abubakar to malign the character of the Honourable Minister, Chief Femi Fani-Kayode, to tarnish his good image and to make him lose focus. But it will not work. This is another dirty attempt by the Atiku campaign organization to deceive the world and to lay baseless charges for their own short comings and inability to organize themselves properly. The Atiku Campaign Organization should just grow up and go and do what they know how to do best, that is to sell a bad product to Nigerian people."

**From Tashikalmah Hallah, Bauchi**

friends to have been ambushed on March 4 while traveling from Nyuga village to Rauta on a motor bike with his friend Abdullahi Haruna Danmadami.

A colleague, who did not want to be identified, said: "He was badly cut. He was beheaded, his nerves cut and his hands amputated".

The murder has prompted his colleagues to declare seven

towns in Toro local government area as 'disaster zone' and have boycotted all judicial activities in the area "until the perpetrators of these heinous acts brought before the law"

*Daily Trust* gathered that the district head of Rauta has been arrested by the police, as family members were said to have accused him of threatening the deceased on several occasion. Also arrested was Abdullahi Haruna Danmadami who was with him when the assailants at-

tacked him. He was said to have sustained a deep machete cut on his leg.

Judicial officers in Bauchi had twice gone on industrial action last year to draw the attention of the government on the security problems inherent in their profession insisting that the problem must be addressed.

"We are been forced to bode the same vehicles with criminals or their relations" said Hussaini Turaki Chairman Sharia Court Judges Association in Bauchi

while explaining their vulnerability to Journalists last year.

However, the government only cowed them to call off the strike with a promise that the government will address the issues raised but has remained a still born.

But a colleague of the deceased while lamenting the poor treatment meted on them by the government vowed that "no judicial officers would go there. We have told the Governor last year about our predicament but the government instead of addressing them threatened us with sack letters". I don't know whether he is going to celebrate it now or not" he added.

The Grand Khadi of Bauchi state, Alhaji Abdullahi Marafa has agreed to the boycott of judicial activities in Rauta, Nyuga, Kafin Garkuwa and Mondu.

Also the police in Bauchi have confirmed the assassination of the Judge and said investigation is still going and would not want to make further comments as it may jeopardize its investigation. Mr. Alhassan. A. Guga, as Assistant Superintendent of Police and the command's spokesman told Daily Trust that "investigation is by nature very difficult and wide. Sometimes it is easy and sometimes its very difficult. We have constitutional duties and we are performing it. We have invite people and investigation is still in progress" he added.

Also confirming the assassination, Alhaji Ibrahim Zailani, the state Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice said "we have received the sad news and we are anxiously waiting for the case file" but refused to be dragged into the implications of the murder while noting the strike action embarked upon by Judicial officers in the state.

## Ballot papers: We'll beat INEC deadline - Mint MD

**By Ahmed I. Shekarau & Muhammad K. Muhammad**

**T**he acting Managing Director of the Nigeria Security Printing and Minting (NSPM) Plc, Alhaji Suleiman Barau, has said that his organisation will be able to meet Independent National Electoral Commission's (INEC) deadline for the printing of ballot papers to be used during the April general elections.

This assurance came at a time

when there are fears that the elections may not hold as scheduled as a result of the electoral body's failure to secure the 10 million ballot papers required.

"We are working very, very hard to meet the deadline; this is a very important national

assignment", the NSPMC chief executive said, adding that: "We're on course toward meeting the deadline," Alhaji said, even though he declined to state the exact timeline for conclusion of the production.

On Monday the Attorney General said there was "concern" over the shortness of time to print ballots and prepare for elections.

## ...says new notes exchange misunderstood

**T**he Mint MD, Alhaji Suleiman, said that people misunderstood the process of currency exchange.

He said new notes were not supposed to be issued unless old notes were exchanged.

He said: "People misunderstood the currency exchange. The currency exchange is basically that you come with an old currency and then you collect a new one of the same denomination. I have been told that people went and issued their cheques and collected the new one, and that was not the inten-

tion", he explained, adding that if people have failed to exchange their old currency for the new one, it is because the attention of the banks had earlier not been drawn to this rule.

The Mint MD also denied reports that the former MD of the NSPMC has been sacked because the company would not be able to meet the May 31 target deadline for phasing out old currency. He insisted that he is only holding the post in an acting capacity because the former MD has gone on leave, adding that the necessary programme

has been put in place to make sure that the deadline is meant.

"An average programme has been put in place to make sure that the deadline is met. And we at the mint are trying our best to make sure that we meet it", he said.

He also said that the NSPMC Plc otherwise referred to as 'The Mint' would finish the upgrading of its plants in Abuja and Lagos within the next three months, and that this would enable it to meet the currency need of the country, so that Nigeria would not have to import currency as from next year.