

Demolition claims life in Abuja

Twenty seven year old Ismail Abdullahi was killed by the Police at the weekend during the demolition exercise in Toge on the outskirts of Abuja while two others were

By Suleiman Muhammad Odapu & Misbahu Bashir

shot and wounded, according to witnesses. They told *Daily Trust* that the Police shot

sporadically at protesting youths who were shouting "we no go gree" to the demolition team. Alhaji Usman Isa, uncle to the deceased, said that Ismail died as a result of the gun shots

he received during the demolition exercise. "I was not there when the incident happened, but I was told that my son, Ismail

Cont. on Pg. 5

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Continued from Page 1

was just coming out of the house when the police shot him," Usman said. According to him, Ismail was rushed to a clinic in Apo and another private hospital but he was not admitted because there was no police report, as the hospital managements insisted that injuries from gunshots must carry a police report to authenticate claims by patients.

"Ismail did nothing wrong to be shot by the Police, yet we take it in good faith. It is Allah who gives and takes, we pray that he will rest in peace," said Isa. He added, "Of course people were protesting and shouting 'we no gree! We no go gree!', but it was all peaceful, yet the Police fired shots at innocent Nigerians."

Another witness, Haladu Bakori said Ismail was shot in the hand and that the police showed no remorse after committing the act.

Aisha Musa, a resident of Toge said that her brother, Abdullahi Musa was also shot in the leg and was receiving treatment in the hospital.

Although Aisha could not name the hospital her brother was taken to, she however said that he was doing well. She lamented that they just paid two years' rent and had stayed only three months in the house before it was demolished.

"We hope our landlord will refund our money, so that we can find another place to stay," she said.

FCT Police Public Relations Officer Ahmed Musa however said that the command was yet to ascertain the "truism of the incident". He said the leader of the Police Demolition Squad and the Divisional Police Officer in charge of Toge would be summoned to clarify the allegation. "Police have taken the allegation very seriously and are presently investigating the case," the police spokesman said.

Deputy Director, Building Inspection of the Department of Development Control, Engr. Ali Obadijah also said he was not aware of the shootings. He however said that there were protests by the residents, who were throwing stones and the Police had to use tear gas.

He said the protest was unnecessary as the two

weeks' notice earlier given to the people had elapsed before they embarked on the demolition.

"They requested for a grace of two weeks, only a week was granted and when we came on Tuesday to start

demolition, again they pleaded for some days which elapsed on Thursday, and we stated demolition a day later." He said the ring leader of the protesters had to be arrested before the demolition commenced.

Daily Trust reports that illegal structures in Mabuchi were also pulled down last week as victims booed the Police that accompanied staff of the FCDA's Development Control department.

Globacom wins licence in Ghana

Continued from Page 1

Ghana's Information Communications and Technology industry.

NCA had over one and half months ago called for a global bid for the sixth GSM license in Ghana.

The company had only last week flagged off services in Benin Republic at a well attended ceremony in Cotonou. Beninese President Boni Yayi had at the occasion stated that the entrance of Glo

into Benin Republic's telecommunication market would transform the sector. He said he had always wished that Glo, having changed the landscape in Nigeria, would come to Benin to make communication better for the people.

After a keenly contested open technical bid, the NCA adjudged Glo Mobile the preferred bidder because of the superiority of its technical presentation, pedigree and

extensive roll out plan for Ghana. Glo Mobile also emerged tops in the commercial bid, leading to its eventual announcement as the winner of the sixth GSM licence in Ghana.

Glo Mobile's management, chaired by Dr. Mike Adenuga Jr. (CON), thanked the NCA for the confidence reposed in the company and promised to roll out aggressively in the country very shortly.

AP's sale: Reps probe report, approve Z

By Tashikalmah Hallah

The House Committee on Privatisation and Commercialisation has confirmed the divestment of the Federal government's share in African Petroleum (AP) to Zenon Petroleum and Gas, saying the transaction was transparent.

Sadiq Oil had petitioned the House of Representatives that it was forced to sell its majority shares in the AP when the NNPC threatened to withhold supply of fuel to the beleaguered company over a debt it owed. Sadiq Oil, in the petition, said it discovered a debt of N26b concealed by the AP management owed to banks, financial institutions and the NNPC.

The NNPC debt which stood at about N10.195bn as at April 2001, was the subject of the petition Messrs Sadiq Oil submitted to the House of Representatives.

Sadiq Oil alleged that the BPE and the AP management concealed the debt before it emerged the core investor and that both the NNPC and the AP signed an agreement in November 2005, where N10.195bn debt was converted to equity shares which was sold to Messrs Zenon Oil. But the committee in its report, said the transaction was transparent and there was no under current activities which led to the conversion of debt to equity.

"Since the sales transaction which culminated in Debt-to-Equity Swap was a

'life saver' to save AP Plc from folding up and since this was conditional on NNPC Pension Fund and in order to allow for the sale process to be transparent, it was important that the Nigerian Stock Exchange did the sale of AP Plc shares in accordance with due process by way of tender offer for sale.

"In our view, the sale transaction followed due process. Accordingly, we recommend that Zenon Petroleum and Gas Ltd, a company with vast resources in petroleum products supply and distribution be allowed to hold on to their equity stake in African Petroleum Plc.

"The Committee is of the view that the Federal Government constituted a Judicial Commission of Inquiry so as to find a solution to the problem that resulted from the sale of the AP Plc shares.

"We recommend that the White Paper and Gazette on its findings be published by the Judicial Commission so that no party would feel cheated". However, the report recommended that Dr Abba Gana who managed AP before Sadiq Petroleum became the core investor and his Chief Accountant, Mr. Alabi, should be made to face the EFCC and their accounts in Nigeria and abroad frozen.

"The Management of AP Plc under Umar Abba Gana was responsible for the huge

debt owed NNPC, and in fact, the hidden debt that was not disclosed to Sadiq Petroleum Ltd, at the time it purchased 30% Federal Government equity shares in AP Plc.

"Therefore, to serve as a deterrent to others and in order to avoid a repeat of such, Mr. Abba Gana and his Chief Accountant, Mr. Alabi should be made to face the EFCC while their account within and outside Nigeria should be frozen."

The House, had pursuant to a resolution on the petition presented by Sadiq Petroleum Nigeria Limited dated 19th November, 2007, in line with Order XIV, Rule 3 (1) (111), and in order to give fair hearing to all parties involved with the sales transactions of the Federal Governments 30% AP shares, conducted a one-day Open Investigative Hearing.

The lawmakers said they had adopted the open investigative hearing method to eliminate restraints and limitations, inviting all the parties involved in the sales transactions to present their own sides' one after the other.

The stakeholders invited for the hearing were the Director-General of the Bureau of Public Enterprises, Dr. (Mrs) Irene Chigbue, the Chairman of Sadiq Petroleum Nigeria Limited, Mr. Peter Eloka