

2 inmates die in Lafia prison

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

PRISONS authorities in Lafia, Nasarawa State yesterday handed over to relatives, the body of one of two inmates that were allegedly tortured to death at the Lafia Prison 10 days ago.

The two inmates, Musa Aliyu and Godwin Francis, were on the awaiting trial list. Their lawyer, Barrister Usman Mohammed Elegu, who spoke to newsmen at the Dalhatu Araf Specialist Hospital mortuary, alleged that prison officials beat

his clients to death, and shot a third person, one Monday Sati on the leg after the attempted jailbreak.

It would be recalled that angry inmates who protested over what they described as insufficient meals being served them by the prisons authorities, attempted a jailbreak, but the prisons warders and policemen foiled it.

The Comptroller General of the Nigerian Prisons Service (NPS), Zakari Ohinoyi Ibrahim confirmed the incident when

he visited the facility. Barrister Elegu said, "two days after the protest at the prison, I learnt that officers beat two inmates to death. I went there, but I was denied access to my clients".

He said he paid four visits to the facility, and spoke to the Deputy Comptroller, asking to see his clients.

"I wasn't allowed to see them. My letter was not officially replied. Before then, I was already informed that Musa Aliyu died from beating. The second one also died. I was told

that the officials beat them with sticks, batons and canes," he said.

He added that the prison authorities surprised him with a call on Monday, about one week later, to inform him that his clients have died.

Mohammed Aliyu Kanza, the deceased's elder brother told newsmen that records at the mortuary showed that Aliyu's corpse was deposited at the mortuary nine days ago.

The Prisons Medical Officer, Rose Aminu, who drove to the mortuary in company of armed

prisons guards, refused to speak to newsmen, and drove off after she informed the deceased's relatives that the authorities would foot the mortuary bills. Newsmen visited the headquarters of the NPS in Lafia, but they were denied access to the Comptroller, Kunle Sanusi. The officer in charge of Operations, whose name was given only as ACP Ochepe, said only the Comptroller General, Zakari Ohinoyi Ibrahim can answer questions relating to the death of the two inmates.

PIC: NAN



FROM left: Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Ibadan, Prof Arinola Sanya; Deputy Registrar, Student Affairs Division, Mrs Stella Soola, and Vice Chancellor, Prof Isaac Adewole, at the opening of a workshop on Formidable Student Unionism in Nigeria organised by the Student Affairs Division of the institution in Ibadan yesterday.

2 killed as NDLEA, drivers clash in Ekiti

From Doyin Adebuseyi, Ado-Ekiti

TWO persons were reportedly killed yesterday when men of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) stormed a motor park in Ado-Ekiti, to arrest suspected drug addicts.

It was gathered that the NDLEA operatives stormed the motor park along Ajilosun area of the metropolis, following a tip-off that some people suspected to be drug addicts had turned the park to their hide-out.

It was gathered that immediately the suspects sighted the operatives, they took to their heels, and that the NDLEA operatives shot into the air. It was gathered that the bullet hit two persons. But the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Victor Babayemi said nobody died in the incident.

He said one person was shot, and that he was in the hospital receiving treatment. He said the command drafted its men to the spot when it received information that there was tension in the area.

The NURTW chairman in the state, Mr Julius Jegede, said the resistance from his men was not because they were guilty of drug abuse, but because of the manner by which the NDLEA officials stormed the park.

Ekiti: Workers warn Assembly over assessment test

From Doyin Adebuseyi, Ado-Ekiti

CIVIL servants in Ekiti State yesterday warned the state House of Assembly not to enact any anti-workers law that would compel workers in the state to write an assessment test.

The workers, under the aegis of the Joint State Public Service Negotiating Council (JSPSNC) said they would resist any attempt by the government to make them

write any assessment test.

The workers warned the Assembly against conniving with the executive to enact any perceived 'anti-workers law' that could engender frosty relationship between them and the government.

In a statement signed by the JSPSNC's secretary, Comrade O.A. Sobande, the workers expressed doubt over the sincerity of the state government, add-

ing that a similar test was conducted which led to the demotion of some principals. The government and teachers in the state's public schools have since been embroiled in crisis over attempts by the government to force them to take an assessment test. The teachers, however, shunned the test, saying it was an attempt to demote and send some of them out of job.

The Commissioner for Infor-

mation, Funminiyi Afuye, has at various at various functions dispelled the insinuation that the assessment test is aimed at downsizing or demoting any worker.

Afuye said the government initiated the examination to assess the workers with a view to determining their areas of needs to help the government take appropriate steps on how to boost their productivity.