

Suspected pipeline vandal dies in Rivers

ONE suspected oil thief and six motorbikes were completely burnt on Sunday when a vandalised pipeline of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) caught fire at Obongonya Ogale in Eleme Local Council of Rivers State.

The *Guardian* learnt that scores of suspected thieves had on Sunday

Book on road traffic for launch

ABOOK: *Road Traffic Accidents in Nigeria: Causes, Control and Tips for Survival*, written by a Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC's) Special Marshal and renowned pharmacist, Mr. Francis Idowu, is billed for launching on Thursday at the Lagos Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Ikeja, at 1.00 p.m.

Chairman of Honeywell Group, Oba Otudeko, will chair the occasion. The forward was written by Nobel Laureate and founder of the FRSC, Prof. Wole Soyinka.

The Corps Marshal and Chief Executive of Feder-

From Kelvin Ebiri (Port Harcourt)

night ruptured several spots along the pipelines, which take petroleum products from Eleme to Kaduna.

According to the sources, the vandals thereafter dug hollow holes around the ruptured spots and then began scooping fuel into empty 50-litre cans.

As one of the vandals who had stolen enough fuel started his motorbike to leave the areas, a spark from the exhaust pipe ignited fire that engulfed the whole area.

It was learnt that the inferno burnt one of the vandals, a male said to be a native of the community beyond recognition. Several others managed to escape the fire. Sources said a yet to be identified co-rider with the deceased sustained serious injuries.

The news of the fire incident created fear at Ogale-Eleme yesterday. When *The Guardian* visited Obongonya, as many as six charred motorbikes were seen.

An elderly woman from

the community, who bemoaned the death of the young man, said elders of the Ogale-Eleme had on several occasions cautioned the youths against vandalising oil pipelines because of its inherent dangers.

Rivers State Police Command Public Relations Officer, Mrs. Ireju Barasua, a Deputy Superintendent of Police, confirmed to *The Guardian* that one person was killed. She explained that the police had already begun investigations of the circumstances surrounding the fire.

She assured that the police would ensure that all suspects were arrested and brought to book.

Media expert, I

APOPULAR media and corporate operative, Mr. Clem Baiye, has been appointed to head the presidential campaign team of the Cross River State Governor, Donald Duke.

The Donald Duke Campaign Organisation, which announced Baiye's appointment, also yesterday said several other