

Iyabo Abati (right); Special Adviser on Media to the President, Reuben Abati; Ogun State Commissioner of Police, Ikemefuna Okoye; former Inspector General of Police, Mike Okiro and former Director-General, Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation, Chief Olusegun Runsewe during the service of songs for the late madam Maria Taiwo Abati in Isabo, Abeokuta, Ogun State...yes-terday

PHOTO: FEMI ADEBESIN-KUTI

Police officers escape fresh attack in Bayelsa

From Willie Erim, Yenagoa

IF not for providence, some police officers attached to the Bayelsa State Command would have been slain by armed bandits suspected to be sea pirates along the

Oporoma/Oyoma waterways in Southern Ijaw council of the state.

Meanwhile, the Police yesterday paraded 14 persons over alleged involvement in cases of conspiracy and stealing, vandalisation of under-

ground cables and unlawful possession of master key.

Speaking on the attack, the State Police Commissioner, Mr. Tonye Ebitibituwa, said in Yenagoa, the incident which occurred at about 7.30am on Tuesday, July 16, 2013 led to some unspecified number of persons killed.

It is reported that the bandits, numbering about 10 and suspected to be members of a notorious gang, were killed in the gun battle.

Ebitibituwa was on his way to the Southern Ijaw council area on a familiarisation tour of police formations within the state when the attack was launched.

Also, in a statement, the Police's spokesperson in the state, Alex Akhigbe, said

"gunboats deployed to beef up security in Twon Brass, Akassa, Okpoama and Southern Ijaw area of the state were attacked between Oporoma/Oyoma Waterways on Tuesday, July 16, 2013 at about 19.30hrs, by a boat with about 10 armed men believed to be notorious sea pirates who have been terrorising our water ways."

"In the ensuing gun battle, some of the pirates were feared dead, others jumped into the water while their boat was sunk. What would have turned out to be another calamity was averted due to the alertness of the patrol team, and the preparedness of the Bayelsa State Police Command to deal with acts of criminality, sea piracy,

armed robbery and other crimes in the state.

"Members of the public are advised to go about their normal duties as the Police are on top of the situation. No stone will be left unturned in our quest to deal with all criminal elements in the state.

Among those paraded included a 42-year old graduate of The Ibadan Polytechnic, Ibadan, Mr. Titilayo Adewale Tosin over his alleged role in admission racket into South African university.

According to the Police, Tosin was arrested after he offered a fake provisional admission letter to one Miss Eniye Maclean Ebule for a degree course in a South African university known as Monasha University in South Africa.

Centre lauds Egypt's suspension from AU

THE Ken Nnamani Centre for Leadership and Development has lauded Nigeria's leadership role in suspending Egypt from the Africa Union (AU) in the wake of the unconstitutional change of government, describing the action as commendable and courageous.

The centre stressed that the military coup in Egypt that overthrew the elected government of President Mohamed Morsi is unconstitutional and unacceptable and warrants the suspension of the country in all activities of the continental organisation until the restoration of constitutional civilian government.

Adding that the act of realpolitik, the Executive Director of the Centre, Prof. Ebere Onwudiwe said, Nigeria acted on its national interest perfectly dressed in

the garb of principles, adding, "in international politics, when principle clashes with interests, it loses every time. The principle in this case is clear leadership of the successful move at the AU to suspend Egypt from that continental body after the military overthrow".

Explaining further, Onwudiwe said President Goodluck Jonathan administration's position speaks loudly and clearly to Nigeria's gallant men and women of the armed forces and "for our own fledgling democracy that taking the leadership in promptly punishing the coup makers in Egypt unequivocally supports the Constitutive Act of the African Union that outlaws illegal change of government.

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Confab on cerebral palsy holds in Lagos

MORE than 200 families, administrative and clinical leaders from hospitals and other health care organisations in Nigeria and abroad will tomorrow gather at Lekki Peninsula Hotel, Lagos for a one-day conference on effective management of cerebral palsy.

A statement issued in Lagos by the Founder of Benola: A Cerebral Palsy Initiative, AVM Femi Gbadebo (rtd) said the stakeholders conference for families and those in charge of persons with cerebral palsy would lead families, health experts, governmental and non-governmental organisations on the path of early detection and better management of persons with cerebral palsy in Nigeria.

Group opposes