

Redeemed Christian Church of God, Pastor Adejare Adeboye was represented by the Special Assistant to the Gen-

lish any chosen vocation.

"Three winners emerged in the assessment conducted by tested judges with documen-

man," he said.

Orelope-Adefulire, who described the programme as inspiring and educative, prayed

great day in my life," he enthused.

## Seven feared killed in explosion near NNPC facility

From Kelvin Ebiri, Port-Harcourt

**N**O fewer than seven suspected petroleum products pipeline vandals were yesterday feared killed while several others sustained injuries following an explosion near the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation jetty at Okrika, Rivers State.

*The Guardian* gathered that the victims are suspected to be part of a syndicate that specializes in the siphoning of petroleum products from the NNPC pipelines at the Okrika jetty. Though the exact cause of the early morning explosion is yet to be ascertained, but sources told *The Guardian* that the

tragic incident was as a result of illegal bunkering of refined petroleum products by the victims.

A source in Okrika who pleaded anonymity said that a pipeline was connected to one of the main pipelines at the Okrika jetty to illegally supply refined petroleum products to the creeks where the products are siphoned and then later sold.

It was gathered that shortly after the explosion, officials of the NNPC had to disconnect the pipeline where the accident occurred.

One of the persons involved in the rescue operations, but

who declined to disclose his name, told journalists that about seven persons were killed and several others injured in the explosion.

The Chairman of Okrika Local Government Area, Tamuno Williams, who was at the jetty to assess the situation, blamed the accident on illegal siphoning of petrol from the NNPC pipeline.

Williams said the number of casualties could not be properly ascertained as at press time due to the difficult nature of the terrain where the incident happened and the level of security within and around the NNPC Jetty.

He, however, confirmed that the survivors of the explosion were in hospitals receiving treatment.

"There was an explosion related to siphoning of products from NNPC pipelines.

Williams also appealed to the NNPC to ensure adequate protection and security of their pipelines against such illegal act to ensure that it does not endanger the lives of Okrika people.

An official of the NNPC who pleaded anonymity told *The Guardian* that the matter was a security issue and that the corporation will make official statement on the cause of the explosion today.

## Nigeria's transformation hinged on evangelism