

Agency chief urges check to polio

From Ali Garba, Bauchi

THE Chairman Bauchi State Primary Health Care Development Agency (BSPHDA) Adamu Ibrahim Gamawa has charged all stakeholders to support the fight against eradication of polio virus in the country. Gamawa made the call yesterday during a one day media training on polio eradication initiative and routine immunisation held at the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) secretariat in Bauchi.

He said that all hands must be deck to ensure that the objective of polio routine immunisation was achieved in the State.

He explained that in the past there were a lot of misconceptions about the vaccine and other challenges saying such allegations need to be corrected so that there will be free polio society.

He lamented that recently there was a fresh case of polio in neighbouring Yobe State saying such fresh cases is not healthy for the state, "we stand a high risk of polio due to the influx of people as a result of security challenges in the north east region".

Borno NYSC chief lauds corps members for dedication

From Njadvara Musa, Maiduguri

The coordinator also

Policeman, others die in pro-Biafran group's bid to 'overthrow govt'

From Lawrence Njoku, Enugu

MEMBERS of the pro-Biafran group, the Biafran Zionists Movement (BZM), led by a lawyer, Benjamin Onwuka, yesterday re-launched an attack on Enugu State Broadcasting Service (ESBS) in a failed attempt to make a live broadcast "overthrowing the government of Nigeria".

Members of the group, said to have numbered over 50, were alleged to have stormed the state radio station as early as 5.30 a.m., beating and seizing workers on duty while trying to make a forceful access into the station's studio.

Clutching guns, machetes, bottles, petrol and other dangerous weapons including Biafran flags, an attempt to stop them resulted to a shoot-out, which claimed the life of a Police inspector and two other members of the group.

The state Police Commissioner, Abubakar

Mohammed, who confirmed the incident yesterday, said their mission was to make a live broadcast "overthrowing the government of Nigeria and burning down the television station when challenged", adding that 13 members of the group, including their leader, have been arrested.

It would be recalled that the BZM had, for about four hours on March 8, attacked the Enugu Government House, where it hoisted flags and other property belonging to it and since then, had not hidden its intention to declare Biafra in the whole of South-East.

Although the Police had on March 12, declared Onwuka "wanted for treasonable felony", while it arraigned in court five persons arrested over the Government House attack, the group again struck at the state radio and television station yesterday.

Onwuka, who was not part of the Enugu Government

House attack, however, led the BZM in yesterday's invasion.

When *The Guardian* arrived in the station yesterday morning, the workers were prevented from gaining entry into the compound while Police and Civil Defence officials took over the entire compound.

An official of the ESBS told *The Guardian* that "we have been asked to stay away from the premises for now until further notice".

Parading the 13 suspects yesterday, Mohammed said: "When they went to the ESBS, they gained entry to the studio and wanted access to make a live broadcast to Nigerians. They had a CD Rom where details of what they wanted to tell the public was and they made a summary of it in a sheet of paper. The sheet of paper contained an appeal, calling on all the boys in Obiagu, Ogui and Enugu to come out; they also asked students and tri-cyclists to come out.

"They wanted to order that all businesses, schools and markets be closed and all government officials should surrender property in their possession before midday. You can see that their mission was to overturn the government and it is something that we will never tolerate".

He continued: "In March, they had attacked the Government House, Enugu. We had earlier declared their leader wanted.

The same group invaded the ESBS with the intention to set the place ablaze after the broadcast.

"They carried with them arms, machetes, 25 liters of petrol, 46 empty beer bottles, one Biafran Zionist flag and some CDs. The purpose of going there with petrol and bottles is to burn the place; you know, when you put petrol inside a bottle, shake it and throw it into a building, it will explode in flames. They went there also with guns because when the policemen confronted them,

they shot one policeman and killed him. In the process of trying to prevent them from setting the place ablaze, they also had a casualty, one of them was shot dead. About 13 of them were arrested, including the leader".

He gave the names of those arrested as Paulinus Ugwu, Michael Oleinya, Ndubuisi Nwabuchi, Benneth Obiekwe, Kelvin Eke, Abraham Ugwu, Chukwuma Alaobi, Ejeja Samson, John Nwordu, Nwolu Fidelis and Uduma Uduma, adding that some of them escaped.

Mohammed warned any group of persons and individuals planning to foment trouble in whatever form to cause a breach of peace to desist, saying it will not be tolerated.

Efforts to speak with the suspects proved abortive as the Police Commissioner insisted that doing so "will mean giving them opportunity to say what they wanted to announce in the live broadcast".

