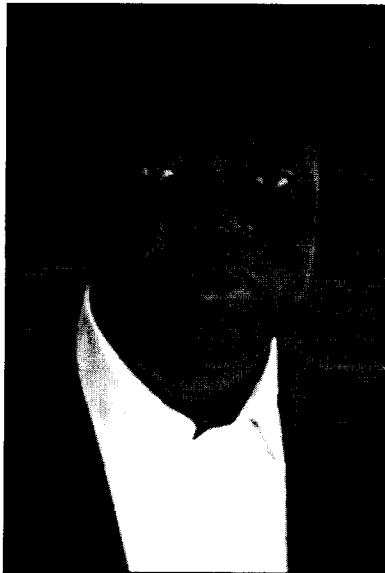


Ex-Militants, Kuku At War



.Kuku

Some ex-militants of the Phase II batch of the Amnesty Programme have called for the probe of the

Abia Governor Worries Over Traffic Congestion In Rivers

The Abia State Governor, Theodore Orji has expressed worry over the huge traffic congestion in Port Harcourt, the capital of Rivers State.

The Governor last week during the lecture in honour of ex-Biafran Warlord, Dim Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu at the main auditorium of the Rivers State House of Assembly attributed his coming late to the venue due to 'huge traffic presence in the state'. "As I was coming the traffic slowed me down", Orji said.

The Governor linked it to the too much construction work carried out by the state government.

He said he represented the other eastern governors who could not make it to the event.

Two Kidnap Suspects Killed

Rivers State Police Command has killed two kidnap suspects at Rumuodomaya area of Port Harcourt, the state capital. The kidnap attempt was foiled by the policemen, who recovered the hoodlums' Lexus car, in which two AK-47 rifles and ammunition were found.

Police spokesman Ben Ugwuegbulam confirmed the incident in Port Harcourt.

Ugwuegbulam said: "On a tip-off, police detectives trailed three kidnap suspects to Rumuodomaya, where the hoodlums attempted to kidnap their victim.

"There was an exchange of fire and in the process, two of the suspects were killed, one escaped. Their car was recovered, in which two AK-47 rifles, 53 rounds of 7.62 mm live ammunition,

Special Adviser to the President on Niger Delta matters, Mr. Kingsley Kuku by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). They staged a protest in Warri, Delta State to protest over what they described as diversion of funds meant for their upkeep.

The ex-militants numbering over 200, who stormed the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Warri Correspondents Chapel Press Centre, said if Mr. Kuku is left unchecked, he may derail the vision of the president in addressing militancy in the region.

Addressing newsmen, National Vice Chairman, Niger Delta Phase II Amnesty, General Israel Akpodoro

By Allwell Sofiri Ene Reporter

The Abia Governor is not the only one who is worried over the traffic in several parts of Port Harcourt. Just recently, the Rivers State House of Assembly blamed the Rivers State Traffic Management Agency (TIMARIV) for the untold hardship residents of Port Harcourt and its environs suffer on roads.

The worry was expressed by Hon. Chidi Lloyd through a motion he sponsored, drawing members attention to what he described as "the excruciating pains suffered by Rivers people".

He said rather than solving problems TIMARIV compounds them. ###

By Samuel Chinda Assistant Editor

with six magazines were uncovered".

Mr. Ugwuegbulam said that investigation has commenced on the matter. ###



.Ugwuegbulam

lamented that they have not been paid their allowances for January and February, alleging that funds meant for the payment have been paid into a fictitious account created by Mr. Kuku.

"Kingsley Kuku is trading with our money and he

Kolokuma/Opokuma LGA: Vice Chairman Locks Out Boss

Tension heightened in Kaiaama, headquarters of Kolokuma/Opokuma Local Government Council on Monday as the reinstated Executive Chairman, Ebikiti Doingoli attempted to resume duties.

A Yenagoa High Court had recently reinstated Doingoli and declared that the appointment of his deputy, Ebierin Itubor as chairman by the then government of Timipre Sylva was null and void.

The court ordered the immediate reinstatement of Doingoli and also issued an order restraining Sylva and his agents from interfering in the resumption of Doingoli.

According to

Amaechi To Senators: Pass Petroleum Industry PIB

Rivers State Governor, Rotimi Amaechi, has appealed to members of the National Assembly to pass into law the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) to promote economic growth in the country.

He said this when members of the Senate Committee on Petroleum Downstream Sector, led by its Chairman, Magnus Abe, visited him at the Government House on Monday.

The governor said the passage of the bill would promote industrialization and create employment.

"Seventy per cent of crimes are caused by poverty and the key cause of poverty is unemployment. The Federal Government has to create a

wants to scuttle the peace in the Niger Delta region. We, the ex-militants don't want to disrupt the peace that is why we are here to let the world know what he is doing to us.

"Kingsley Kuku first took us to Obubra for documentation, after a few

months, they cancelled it because they discovered that the real list of ex-militants submitted was infiltrated by some persons in Kuku's office.

As I am talking with you now, none of my boys have received alert of payment for January and February," he said. ###

Doingoli had locked. At about 2.30 pm, when he got to the council, Doingoli was shocked that the offices were yet to be opened. He, nevertheless, to calmed down his aggrieved supporters that they must follow due process to ensure Itubor obey the court order.

The letter dated February 24 stated that Doingoli be allowed to resume his duties and the suspension placed on six councillors of the council by Itubor was lifted.

However, Itubor, in an apparent defiance of the court ruling and letter from the state government, refused Doingoli entrance to his office as it was

He persuaded them not to break into the offices in the absence of security operatives and policemen so as not to give his detractors the opportunity to attack him.

He said he would meet with the state Commissioner of Police, Chris Olakpe on the provision of security for him to resume. ###

conducive economic atmosphere that encourages development and that development includes industrialization which then will create employment, but the lack and absence of a petroleum industry law is hindering that development.

"The oil servicing companies are not working and because they are not working they have laid off their workers and because they have laid off their staff the crime rate has increased", he added.

According to Amaechi, the Nigerian economy would perform better with the passage into law of the Petroleum Industry Bill.

"There has not been much investment in the oil

sector because there is no law on the country's petroleum industry". ###



Gov. Amaechi

Bayelsa: FG Plans To Compensate Explosion Victims

The eight communities affected by the recent Chevron gas facility explosion would get relief materials and compensation from the Federal Government.

President Goodluck Jonathan gave the assurance when he visited Bayelsa State for an aerial inspection of the affected areas.

Chevron gas facility in the Atlantic Ocean exploded on January 16, causing pollution in eight communities.

The communities are: Ezefu I, Ezefu II, Koloama I, Koloama II, Furoupa, Fish Town, Sangana, and Ekeni with a combined population of about 30,000 people.

The President was accompanied by some government officials, including the ministers of Petroleum Resources, Niger Delta Affairs and Environment, Deziani

Alison-Maduekwe, Godsdad Orubebe and Hadiza Mailafia.

After the inspection, the President told the people that something was being done to remedy the situation. He hailed the people for their patience.

Jonathan said the Federal Government would partner with the state and Chevron to provide the relief materials.

He said: "In terms of other demands that have been documented, I noticed that many issues have been raised and these are issues we are quite conversant with. I can assure you that we will look into it, the company, the state and the Federal Government will continue to address them".

The President told the people, who presented a joint address, that "communities impacted must have some relief, some compensation. That is obvious

but the quantum will depend on studies that have been carried out by the company and the Federal Government. On my own part, I reassure you that the Federal Government is committed to the issues bordering on environmental management, from the Niger Delta to the North where we have desert encroachment".

The President noted that the Federal Government through the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) would provide some of the relief materials.

Speaking on the lack of employment for the oil bearing communities by oil companies operating in the area, Jonathan observed that even when it was necessary for the companies to employ, they could only do so where there were qualified applicants and also bearing in mind that they could not over employ. ###