

# They Want Me Dead - Gov. Dickson



Gov. Dickson

**B**ayelsa State Governor, Hon. Seriake Dickson, on Sunday, returned to the country from his trip abroad where he had gone to meet with investors.

While the governor was away, rumours were allegedly making the rounds that he was ill. But, a statement on Sunday,

by his Chief Press Secretary (CPS), Daniel Markson-Iworiso, Dickson said he would not have joined issues with the people who are clearly political detractors that have lost out in the power equation in the state but was compelled to issue the press release to set the records straight.

"Governor Dickson is hale and hearty. His trip to the United Kingdom was not on health ground but to further woo investors to the state as well as to lay the foundation for the launch of Bayelsa Development Corporation's international office in London. The governor, therefore, wishes to call on Bayelsans to be weary of these political jobbers who had held the state hostage in the past".

Gov. Dickson called for the people's continued understanding and support for his government, noting that his administration is doing all it can

to fast track development in the state. The Governor, who dismissed the rumor of his ill health as unfounded, malicious a calculated attempt to create panic in the state, said his detractors' wishes for him to fall sick or die will never come to pass as he is in sound health by God's grace.

## Okrika: Residents In Danger Over Gas Leakage

**F**ear and anxiety have gripped residents of Ibuluya Dikibo community in Okrika Local Government Area of Rivers State following the leakage of a ruptured gas pipeline belonging to the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC).

It was learnt that about 60 people from the community were feared hospitalised following the incident.

Meanwhile, youths from the affected community on Sunday staged a peaceful protest over NNPC's failure to urgently repair the pipes and control the leakage, which resulted to serious health challenges in the area.

Speaking on the incident, the youths' leader, Ezekiel Epeya Sunday, lamented that the health of the youths of Ibuluya Dikibo people around the area has been

affected adversely by the steps were being taken to address the issue. According to him, "the situation in my community now is too dangerous, we can no longer breathe well. A lot of people have been rushed to the hospitals due to several health problems, as a result of the leakage. The situation would have been controlled if NNPC came in earlier to repair the pipes".

Also, the Chairman of Okrika Council, Barr. Tamuno Williams, confirmed the incident, adding that many people were receiving treatment following the leakage. He warned that NNPC should not take the health of the people for granted, stressing the need to always check and fix pipelines.

He, however, called on the youths of Ibuluya Dikibo community to remain calm as

Tuesday, to see things for himself. Meanwhile, he had earlier directed the deputy governor, Rear Admiral Gboribogh John Jonah, to ensure the release of relief materials to the affected communities.###

But, the Manager Public Affairs, Port Harcourt Refinery, Ralf Ogbu, has blamed Ibuluya youths for the delay in repairing the damaged pipes.

Ogbu said that engineers from the refinery went earlier to repair the pipelines but were not allowed access by the community's youths.

His words: "we would have resolved the situation earlier but our engineers were not allowed access to the scene to repair the pipes but now with the intervention of the council's chairman, the engineers have been allowed to move in and the leakage has been fixed".

He, therefore, urged the fleeing residents to return to the area and go about their normal duties without panic.###

## OBALGA: Royal Father Cautions Against Corruption

By Damiete West  
Editor-in-Chief

**T**he people of Oha Okpor Okwurusi Community in the Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State have appealed to public officers to shun corruption.

His Highness, Eze Nsirim Wali Nwoke, who made the appeal while speaking at the independence celebration organized by the community on Monday, called on political leaders to use the season to reflect on areas that require improvement.

The royal father who commended Governor Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi for his giant strides, pleaded with politicians to carry everyone

along. In his speech, the Chairman of Oha Okpor Okwurusi Council, Prince (Engr.) Morgan Amadi, said that the essence of the celebration is to instill the spirit of patriotism in younger and also promote the cultural heritage of the area. Engr. Amadi also hinted that very soon, the community would organize her new yam festival and called on the State Government to construct good roads in the area.

The highlight of the occasion was a match pass by students and youths in the community.###

## Police Foil Bank Robbery In Rivers

**M**en of the Rivers State Police Command at the weekend, foiled a robbery attack, killing one suspected robber in the exchange of fire with the gang in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital.

The Hard Truth learnt that the gang of robbers had gone to rob a new generation bank located along Olu-Obasanjo Road in the state capital when a team of policemen - which acted promptly to a distress call, arrived the scene.

However, it was not clear as at the time of filing this report if one of the policemen, who was wounded during the gun battle with the hoodlums, had given up the ghost.

Confirming the incident, the Police Public

Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, Mr. Benjamin Ugwuegbulam, said their operational vehicles, immediately one of the robbers including the corpse of their was gunned down, other dead gang member, leaving members of the gang fled, behind a Gulf 3 car and one leaving behind one of the FNC rifle."###

Ugwuegbulam said: "Our men responded to a distress call from a bank (name withheld) at Ikoku along Olu Obasanjo Road, Port Harcourt. However, unknown to them, the gang had laid ambush and opened fire on the patrol team upon arrival at the scene. In the ensuing gun battle, one of the gang members was shot dead and a Policeman was also fatally wounded.

"As the gun battle raged on, the hoodlums who came with three vehicles



.Ugwuegbulam

## Wike Urges Contractors To Keep To Timeline On Almajiri, UBEC Projects

**T**he Minister of State for Education, Mr. Nyesom Wike, on Friday said that contractors handling the Universal Basic Education library and Almajiri projects risked revocation of their contracts if they derailed in the contract agreement.

Wike made the statement when he met with contractors and bankers responsible for the projects.

According to him, although the projects were due to be completed in November, the pace at which the contractors were working was slow.

The minister said that the present administration has played its part by releasing funds to ensure that government delivered on the Almajiri and Unity Schools projects.

He cautioned banks and the contractors not to sabotage government by not releasing

funds and by doing shoddy jobs.

"We have made promises to Nigerians that by November, everything that has to do with almajiri school would have been completed", he said.

Wike said that enrolment of children in the schools would commence immediately after.

He explained that the timeline for the library projects in the Federal Government Colleges was six months, adding that by February 2013, the projects ought to be completed and handed over to the schools.

He said that the gesture was to beautify the libraries and equipping them with modern facilities to encourage students to read.

The minister added that the projects would improve the quality of education and enhance performance in public examinations.###

## 34 Year Old Man Docked For Stealing Police Rifle

**A** thirty-four year old man, Anele Woko, is standing trial before chief magistrate I. F Iyiabo, for stealing police rifle on charge No PMC/1827C/2012.

On count one, the accused person and others at large in 2009, at Egbada Community in Onelga, Rivers State in the Port Harcourt magisterial district did conspire among themselves to commit felony to wit: stealing and

thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 516 (A) of the Criminal Code Cap 37 Laws of Rivers State 1999.

On count two, the accused person with others at large on the same date and place in the aforesaid magisterial district did steal one police rifle, property of the Nigerian Police Force and thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 390 of the Criminal Code Cap 37, Vol. II Laws of Rivers State 1999.

After reading the charges to the accused person who pleaded not guilty. The magistrate granted him bail with the sum of N300,000.00, with a surety who must produce two passport photographs. The surety must be a civil servant on grade level 12. The case was adjourned to the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, 2012 for hearing.###

By Samuel Chinda  
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