

RIVERS: CP, Abua DPO, Others To Appear In Court

The Rivers State Police Commissioner and some other policemen are to appear before Hon. Justice George Omereji of the Ahoada High Court Division for series of human rights abuses on charge No. AHC/08/2012.

The applicants namely; Elder ThankGod Gospel Okulu, Mr. Gospower Okulu, Mr. Emmanuel Fabia and Mr. Sampson Godwin are accusing the defendants namely: Mr. Joseph (surname unknown), Mr. Akeutoi Asipha (AKA Kobamoye Asipha), Mr. Monday Nemia, Mr. Wisdom Omu, Mr. Steve Asipha, Chief Ibitubo Ikulughan, Mr.

Uwilenaan Suotor Buli, Mr. Onye Imiete, Dr. Uche Chukwuma (DPO, Abua Police Station) and the Commissioner of Police Rivers State Police Command for series of human rights abuses. They are claiming ten million (N10,000,000) naira for damages.

The conclusion of the suit states "we submit that the actions of the respondents infringe on the applicants' fundamental rights to life, dignity and personal liberty and that the same deserves to be protected.

"Having regard to the inconvenience and hardship the applicants have been made to

undergo, we submit that the applicants are entitled to damages from the respondents".

It would be recalled that in this weekly's publication dated February 16 - 22, page 7, some persons, forcefully entered into his house and attacked him.

He stated that during the attack, he and his wife were assaulted, adding that some of his personal belongings were also damaged.

The matter has been fixed for first hearing on 17th April, 2012. ###

Rivers: NUJ Gets New Building

By Okorite Harry
Sub-Editor

The Nigerian Union of Journalists building has been demolished. The building will be replaced by a new structure.

Speaking to newsmen on Moscow Road, the Commissioner for Information and Communication, Hon. (Mrs.) Ibim Semenitari, said "the press centre of NUJ was demolished to be replaced by a new edifice, which will have a resource centre as Rivers State Government property and will be open to the public on things

that border on information". Hon. Semenitari reiterated government's interest in the welfare of its citizens and NUJ.

The Commissioner stated further that the cost of demolishing the building and setting up a new structure has been provided for by the government in the 2012 fiscal appropriation bill of the Rivers State Government.

Mr. Opaka Dokubo, Chairman, Rivers State NUJ Council said journalists have

waited for so long for a new building.

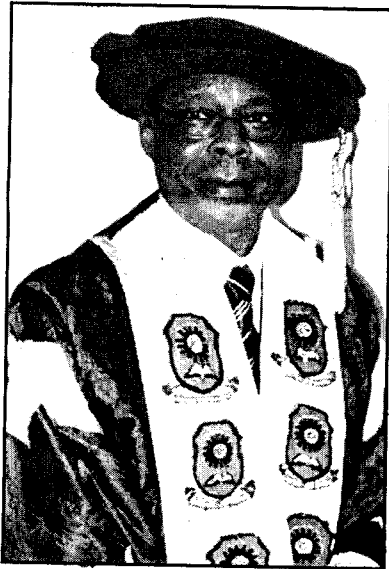
Mrs. Jokotade Adamu, Permanent Secretary, Rivers State Ministry of Information and Communication, revealed that adverts have been placed on a national and local newspaper for bidding on the job, adding that the public procurement is to fast track the project and ensure its completion before the year ends. ###

"Resign If..." Group Tells Fakae

By Damiete West
Editor-in-Chief

The Rivers People United For Due Process (RPUDP) has called on the Vice Chancellor (V.C) of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt, Prof. B.B Fakae to resign if he fails to make public the claims that "he rose to the position of Associate Professor of Veterinary Parasitology in October 2000 and Professor in 2004.

In a statement entitled: "RSUST Quagmire: Recommendation for suspension of Prof. B. B Fakae, Appointment of Acting Vice Chancellor and Inviting EFCC" that was made available to this publication at the weekend, the group stated that if Fakae refuses to follow the "path of honour" by making available his professorship promotion letter, it will drag the V.C to EFCC.



.Fakae

N/D Group Backs Petroleum Minister

A Niger Delta rights group, Niger Delta Youth Mandate For Transformation Agenda, has strongly condemned calls for the sack of the Minister of Petroleum Resources, Mrs. Diezani Allison-Madueke, saying those making the call were selfish and should not be taken seriously.

National Coordinator of the group and former militant leader, Mr. Fiawei Pathfinder, who spoke in Warri, Delta State, weekend, after a meeting of the group, noted that the minister has carried out far reaching reforms, that have enhanced the performance of the petroleum sector.

He said those calling for her sack, particularly, the Coalition of Ex Agitators, were ignorant of the modest achievements of the Petroleum Minister.

He observed that the various high powered

committees set up by the Minister, including the Special Petroleum Industry Bill Taskforce and the one on Petroleum Revenue headed by Mr Nuhu Ribadu, former Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Chairman, would accelerate the reforms and inspire confidence in the sector. ###



.Allison-Madueke

2012: South-South Intensifies Integration, Investment

The South-south is set to strengthen its economic leadership and relevance in the country with its 2012 economic summit.

Issues bordering on investment in the region will headline the South-south economic summit scheduled to take place in Asaba in April.

According to a statement by BRACED Commission, conveners of the summit, other key areas that would be in focus are security and development. BRACED is an acronym for Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Edo, and Delta states. It functions as the secretariat of the South-south states.

The Director-General of BRACED Commission, Ambassador Joe Keshi, had recently confirmed that the summit would be declared open by President Goodluck Jonathan.

The theme of the three-day summit slated for April 26-28 is 'Development, Investment and Security', which Keshi said was a pointer to the direction and focus of the renewed integration of the zone.

"When put together, we are saying that the South-south is ready for investment. We want to tell the world that the South-south is developing but within the context of that development is also the realisation that the South-south is potentially an investment haven.

"For those around the world and within the country who are looking for areas of investment, they can do so in oil and gas, agro-business among others. There is virtually nothing you cannot produce in large quantity in the South-south", Keshi explained.

He said the summit would attract a mix of international audiences including presidents, multi-national investors, global business leaders as well as indigenous investor and ministers, especially ministers from the South-south zone.

This year's summit is the second in the series following the maiden summit held in Calabar, Cross River State in 2009. To demonstrate the seriousness and commitment of the commission towards delivering a world-class summit, the BRACED Commission recently launched a new website solely dedicated to the summit.

The South-south is the economic heart of the nation; being the sole producer of the country's crude oil throughput. With the recent passage of a N4.8 trillion 2012 budget at a benchmark of \$72 per barrel of oil, the full implementation of this budget will depend largely on the socio-political stability of the South-south which as recent as 2006 was a major flashpoint.

The summit, therefore, in

addition to building synergy within the region, would also seek ways of sustaining peace in the region.

According to Keshi: "We are focussing on regional integration and economic development, the type that is capable of producing jobs for the people of the zone and by extension for the larger Nigerian populace.

"There is something you must understand about labour; if any part of the country is developed, there would be substantial migration of labour towards that area as we have in Lagos today. Lagos is the commercial nerve centre of Nigeria but we need to create more commercial centres and cities in the country. The South-south has up to two or three areas that you can call commercial cities. Our strategy is to create the conditions that would help these cities realise their full potentials as commercial hubs", he added.

Given the way the South-south is growing, he projected that "in the next 15 to 20 years, the zone can create the number of jobs and opportunities that would help banish poverty from the region and the country at large. Very soon, people would start migrating to the South-south because of the opportunities which would be created from the socio-economic integration of the zone". ###

26 Years Old Woman Dies After Rape In Bayelsa

A 26 year old lady, Miss Bridgette Opusigi, was raped and killed in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State.

Opusigi was allegedly raped and killed along the Opolo-Elebele Road and her naked lifeless body dumped on the premises of a popular church

along the road. A friend of the deceased, who identified herself as Tina, said the victim was declared missing by her family since last Wednesday, recalling that the victim had told her family that she was attending a church service but never returned home.

Opusigi was said to have

gone to church for prayers over a pending job interview.

It was learnt that several calls made to her mobile phone by her family and church members rang out without any response.

Police authorities in the state have commenced a manhunt in search of Opusigi killers. ###