

# Bombing Of Pipelines: Govt. Given 10 Days Ultimatum

A crude oil pipeline belonging to Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company, SNPECo, in Bayelsa State, has been bombed by people believed to be ex-militants.

It was learnt that the bombing destroyed the SNPECo oil pipeline, which supplies crude to Egbotomuru Flow Station in Southern Ijaw local government area of the state. The bombers said they blew up the crude oil pipeline because of Federal Government's refusal to create

space for them (ex-militants) in the amnesty programme.

Reacting, however, the Corporate Media Relations Manager at SNEPCo, Mr. Tony Okonedo, said there was no report of destruction of the company's pipeline by those in the operations unit.

A text message and calls by our reporter to the media coordinator of the Joint Task Force codenamed "Operation Pulo Shield", Lt. Col. Antigha, were ignored, but one "General Commander" Bosewe, who said he was calling from the Thick

Forest, called our Pidgin English, said he had adding that the only thing that could pacify the group is the inclusion of his group of second blow up oil facilities in the and third phase ex-militants in region in the next 10 days, the amnesty programme. ###

## Why We Increased The Budget By N11bn - RSG

By Allwell Sofiri Ene  
Reporter

The Government of fuel subsidy so it wasn't Rivers State has captured", he explained.

He said after a meaningful deliberation and scrutiny of the appropriation bill by the RSHA, the budget of N427b which was initially sent to the House was returned to the Governor for the inclusion of the N11bn got from fuel subsidy removal making the budget N438bn.

The Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning, Hon. Gogo Levi Charles, explained it to the press.

He said the increase was due to the inclusion of the N11b subsidy fund in the budget proposal submitted by the Governor to the Rivers State House of Assembly. "At the point of budget preparation, no body knew that there would be either partial or full removal of N2bn, year 2011 closing

balance of N12bn and proposed bond and loan of N100bn.

On how the state intends to spend the N438bn, the Commissioner said recurrent expenditure would take the sum of N114.339bn, while capital expenditure would consume N323.661bn.

He disclosed that a total of N94.337bn is for salaries and overheads, adding that Rivers State is the only state that implements the new minimum wage by paying N18,900 against the Federal Government's N18,000. ###

## Murder Of Son: Father Kills Suspects

Two persons have been killed in Bayelsa State. Their killings was allegedly ordered by a man identified as Ibibi to avenge his son's death.

Sources said his son, the late Ebibofa, was allegedly killed by his friends, Delta and Solomon Emmanuel.

Trouble started when Delta and Solomon gave the late Ebibofa some drums to sell.

The duo allegedly conspired to kill him because he could not account for the proceeds accruing from the sale of the drums, it was learnt.

According to the sources, "Ibibi, apparently not satisfied with the investigations being carried out by the police, reportedly organised some boys to bring the two suspects to him.

"They were allegedly killed in his presence. One of the boys died on the spot but the other one died at the hospital."

Police spokesman, Eguavoen Emokpai, said investigations have commenced.

"The man has been arrested and he is making useful statements. The matter is under investigation," he said. ###

## Lassa Fever Death Toll: RSG Denies Report

The Rivers State Government has dispelled rumours that 48 persons died as a result of the outbreak of lassa fever in Rivers State.

The Commissioner for Information, Ibim Semeritari, while fielding questions from journalists, said that only one person has been confirmed dead so far. "If 48 persons died as a result of lassa fever, it will cease to be an epidemic but a pandemic", she argued, that the state has made efforts to combat the scourge of the disease by even putting in place a lassa fever centre at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH)

She also noted that as part of government's effort to ensure effective management of hospitals in the state, it has made plans to give out the Kelsy Harrison Hospital to a private firm to manage.

Semeritari disclosed that the Commissioner for Health, Dr. Sampson Parker, has been directed to get a company that would manage the hospital.

The reason for getting a private company to manage it was due to the kind of facilities put in place, she said.

Her words: "The reason is simple: we think

with the kind of facility we have there, we should allow a private sector management approach so that it does not become business as usual".

On roads' construction, the Commissioner said government is making efforts to complete all on-going road projects, adding that potable drinking water would soon be made available to the people of the state.

She said funds would be made available by the World Bank for that, noting that the major problem encountered by the Water Resources Ministry is the destruction of pipes by construction companies. ###



.Parker

## Bayelsa Senators, Reps Shun Convention

The crisis rocking the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Bayelsa State escalated at the weekend as federal lawmakers from the state shunned the national convention at the Eagle Square, Abuja.

The senators and members of the House of Representatives were protesting against certain partisan actions of Governor Seriake Dickson, it was learnt. However, supporters of the governor frowned at their refusal to attend the convention, saying that it was a gang-up.

Recently, there were complaints that the governor had forced "a paradigm shift on policy and resource allocation".

The Secretary-General of Bayelsa Integrity and Renaissance Group, Mr. Priye Richards, who spoke to the state,

reporters at the convention, attributed the absence of the lawmakers to "gang-up" against Governor Dickson because his approach to governance has been in conflict with the stand of the lawmakers.

He said that Dickson has refused to run the government on the basis of "illicit patronage" whereby people get unearned income and having kept his words, the politicians are not happy with him. He was emphatic that the absence of the lawmakers from the national convention as they did at the state and zonal congresses was a fallout of disagreement on how the new government should expend state resources - particularly on the stoppage to huge funds hitherto disbursed to political interests in the state.

"What the absence of our Senators and members of the House of Representatives from our state congress and national convention today has so far shown, is that they have ganged up against Governor Seriake Dickson because of his principled stance on resource allocation in Bayelsa State.

"Since he became governor, he has told everybody that the era of cheap money, whereby huge money is shared among politicians at the expense of the state is gone. He campaigned on this issue, saying no more unearned income and he has kept his words but the entrenched politicians are not happy and they are expressing same as we have witnessed here in Abuja today", he said. ###

## RIVCAS To Be Upgraded To Polytechnic

By Okorite Harry  
Sub-Editor

The Rivers State Governor, Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, has released the 2011 budgetary allocation for the Rivers State College of Arts and Science with a view to upgrading the college to a polytechnic.

The Provost of the Institution, Dr. Hillary Wordu, made this known to newsmen during the 21<sup>st</sup> matriculation ceremony of the institution.

Wordu expressed satisfaction with the Governor for fulfilling his promises, adding that the institution is one of the 75 institutions in Nigeria offering programmes accredited by the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE). He added that the college was fully recognised by the Tertiary Education Trust

Fund (TETFUND), Industrial Trust Fund (ITF) and the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB).

Dr. Wordu thanked the Chairman of the Niger Delta Development Commission, (NDDC), Dr. Tarilla Tebepah, for assisting the college to access one hundred million naira (N100,000,000) in the 2010 intervention fund during his tenure as a member and representative of the South-South on the Board of Trustees of Education Trust Fund (BTEF).

His words: "This fund is now being used to erect a two story block of 12 classrooms and 18 offices and toilets, which will help reduce accommodation challenges in the college".

Dr. Wordu also



Gov. Amaechi