

# ACD Governorship Aspirant Assassinated

By Chika Ehinia (Abuja)  
and Onoja Audu (Jos)

A governorship aspirant  
in the Advanced Congress of

## • Crisis In Rivers Chapter

sinated in Jos by suspected  
hired killers.  
Aruku, former Bassa  
Council Chairman in the  
state, was, until his death,  
General Manager of Plateau  
Tourism Corporation.

He was abducted on Fri-  
day night on Bassa-Gada-  
Biu Road after he returned  
from a rally in Bassa.  
A family friend recounted  
that Aruku told his wife  
that night that he was go-

ing to buy drugs from a  
nearby chemist. He did not  
return.  
A search party went  
round Jos and its environs  
but could not find him.  
When the wife called his

mobile line, one of the assas-  
sins told her not to worry. He  
promised that the deceased  
would return home when they  
had finished with him.  
Aruku's body was found on  
Sunday morning in a drainage  
on Mfango Road, close to the

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## FC Earns N300b From Oil Blocs

By Bassey Udo  
ENERGY EDITOR, Lagos

Award of 152 oil blocs yielded  
about \$2.187 billion (N300 billion)  
to the federal treasury between 1990  
and 2006, according to figures ob-  
tained from the Department of Pe-  
troleum Resources (DPR).

Some \$2.134 billion (about 98 per  
cent) was earned in the three licens-  
ing rounds done between 2000 and  
2006 on about 82 acreages.  
About \$53 million or two per  
cent accrued from the award of

about 70 blocs between 1990 and 1998,  
on an average signature bonus of about  
\$5 million per bloc.

The government took control of oil  
resources in 1973 through the establish-  
ment of the Nigerian National Petro-  
leum Corporation (NNPC) to engage  
in joint ventures with multi-national oil  
companies granted leases.

However, the first attempt at oil bloc  
award was by the Ibrahim Babangida  
administration in 1990.

That year, nine acreages were allo-  
cated on discretion to indigenous op-  
erators, fetching \$9 million, with an av-

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### ANNOUNCEMENT

#### Re: Attorney General Of The Federation Vs Rotimi Durojaiye And Three Others

Following certain developments regarding the above mat-  
ter, we, Independent Newspapers, wish to state that only our  
counsel is authorised to speak and/or make commitments  
in our name.

For the avoidance of doubt, we are open to an out-of-court  
settlement on terms agreeable to the parties.

We would like to thank our well wishers, especially col-  
leagues in the media, friends in the civil society groups, and  
the human rights community for standing by us.

Management  
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barracks of the 3rd Division of the Army.

He had a knife cut on his chest and injuries to the head and neck, caused by a rope the attackers used to tie him.

His remains are deposited at the Airforce Mortuary in Jos.

Police Commissioner, Richard Chime, said the command received the report on Sunday afternoon and

sought more time to get the details.

Another governorship aspirant, Pam Dung Gyang, narrowly escaped death after assassins visited his home in Jos and left a message with his wife that he should drop his ambition.

Meanwhile, the Rivers State chapter of the ACD is in a crisis with the emergence of three different factions.

The national secretariat

in Abuja confirmed that the squabble is over the control of the party's machinery ahead of the 2007 elections.

One faction is headed by a former governorship candidate of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), Sergeant Awuse. Another is led by Benneth Birabi.

The third is controlled by state ACD Chairman, Mmuen Kpagane, whose camp is recognised by the

national leadership.

Kpagane is not bothered by the disarray. Rather, he expressed confidence that the crisis would make the ACD stronger in Rivers.

"The storm will certainly be over very soon. Once the national leadership comes for the harmonisation which the party's stakeholders in the state have called for, every other thing shall fall in line".