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Army rejigs operations, prepares for *Boko Haram*

By Augustine Madu-West
(Kano), Rotimi Akinwumi (Abuja),
Femi Ogbonnikan, Abel Orukpe,
Ekene Okoro (Lagos) and Bassey
Inyang (Calabar)

GOVERNMENTS at federal and state levels are still scrambling to nip in the bud the new scourge of suicide bombing introduced into beleaguered Nigeria by the Islamic jihadist

• Fear grips top police officers • Security beef up in Lagos, Ogun • Fashola asks FG to address *Boko Haram*'s grouse

Saraki reconciles with son, returns to PDP soon

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called *Boko Haram*, whose members, mostly *talakawas*, have become a thorn in the flesh of the Northern estab-

lishment.

Another police officer was murdered in Kano on Monday, besides the six

killed by *Boko Haram* in Katsina that day, and before then the carnage in Abuja on June 16 which took sev-

eral lives.

The murder of a policeman in Kano, Umar Suffi, has sparked off fresh anxi-

ety. There was an initial fear that the attack was carried out by *Boko Haram*, but the Deputy Commissioner of Police, B. Dikko, said it was

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EDITORIAL

From Cape to Cairo: A
proposed \$875b trade bloc
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Confusion trails Reps' allowance

• May affect resumption date

By Sola Shittu
Senior Correspondent, Abuja

HOUSE of Representatives members were again disappointed on Tuesday when the National Assembly (NASS) management failed to pay their allowance, putting financial pressure on them in Nigeria's most expensive city, Abuja, where residents need loads of cash to keep up appearances.

Lawmakers on the Welfare, Selection, Media, Security, and Rules and Business Committees have sat three times without allowances.

One said this may affect the

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PDP leaders abandon offices to lobby for Ministerial jobs

By Rotimi Akinwumi
Correspondent, Abuja

SOME members of the National Working Committee (NWC) of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) have abandoned their offices to have more time to hassle President Goodluck Jonathan for Ministerial appointments.

Kawu Baraje, PDP National Secretary; Haliru Mohammed, acting National Chairman; and Ahmed Alkali, National

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Delta State Governor, Emmanuel Uduaghan (right); Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba (middle); and Delta State Assembly Speaker, Victor Ochei (left); at an induction course for the state's lawmakers in Abuja ... on Tuesday.

Photo: Jide Oyekunle.

50 feared dead, thousands displaced in Fulani, Tiv conflict

By Terna Doki (Makurdi)
and Tor Vande-Acka (Lafia)

ABOUT 50 persons have died and 10,000 displaced in new night raids on Tiv settlements on the Benue and Nasarawa border by Fulani herdsmen.

Women, children, and the

aged are in three camps set up by the Benue State Government.

Others have taken refuge in the homes of relatives in and outside Makurdi.

Fighting has continued in the remote areas despite the presence of troops and policemen drafted to confront the guerilla tactics of the in-

vaders.

Affected villagers—including Torgema Antsa, Gbaorun Mbatsav and an aged woman, Hembakwase Amine—said in Makurdi that the strategy of the Fulani resembles an Islamic jihad, with the possible involvement of *Boko Haram*.

They noted that the Fulani

nomads transport dangerous weapons through bush paths, night and day, on the backs of cattle, and pasture hundreds of kilometres until they reach where they hand over the weapons to mercenaries.

The latest clash began in Doma and Keana Councils in Nasarawa State last week-

end, and spread to the border areas of Igyough, Gborigyo, Mbaya, Pevin Gbor, and Shiwua Tugudu in Guma Council in Benue State.

State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) Co-ordinator, Adikpo Agbatse, confirmed that the Benue Government has set

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50 feared dead, thousands displaced in Fulani, Tiv conflict

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up camps in Daudu for over 5,000 displaced persons; in Ortese (2,000) and at St. Mary's Primary School in Makurdi (2,000).

Deputy Governor Stephen Lawani, security agents, and other government officials visited some of the affected areas on Tuesday.

However, soldiers have been withdrawn from one settlement following the killing of one of them by the Fulanis, who had previously murdered Emmanuel Awajir, a retired Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP).

Benue State Commissioner of Police, Ibrahim Mohammed, could not be reached on the telephone, and he did not respond to a text message.

Police Public Relations Officer, Ejike Alaribe, said he had not briefed on the conflict on Tuesday.

But a traditional ruler, Daniel Abomtse, explained that the conflict is part of the grand design of the people of Alago and other tribes in Nasarawa State who front Fulanis to dislodge Tivs in the areas covering over 200 kilometres.

Abomtse said the permanent solution is for the Tivs to reside in clustered settlements, populated enough to attract social amenities, including security, to ward off external aggression.

He accused Abuja of playing politics with the demarcation of the boundary between the old Plateau State (from where Benue

was carved) and Nasarawa State.

His words: "Even in Gboko, the traditional headquarters of Tiv nation, there is a Sarkin Hausawa, who is a member of the Tiv Area Traditional council (TATC). There is the Jukun chief, a district head, who is also a member of the TATC.

"There is the Sarkin Hausawa, even in Makurdi, and they are accorded full recognition and rights, with their salary paid by the Benue State Government.

"But in Nasarawa and Taraba, where the Tivs were balkanised by state creation and their initial request to join their kith and kin in Benue was turned down by many commissions, they have suddenly become settlers.

"They are not given traditional or political rights and recognition by the government. Please can any Nigerian tell me which ethnic group in this country that did not come from somewhere to settle in a particular place?"

A police source said the Fulani attackers are not "ordinary" herdsman but mercenaries on the prowl.

Tiv Spokesman in Kadarko, Alfred Davue, lamented that the Tivs in Nasarawa State are not properly cared for.

The Benue State Government has set up a committee to find an enduring solution to the frequent violent invasions of Tiv settlements by Fulani herdsman, which have claimed about 300 lives.