

News

16 corps members to repeat service year in Jigawa

By Abubakar Sharada
Reporter, Dutse

SIXTEEN out of about 1,300 2010 Batch 'B' National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members who served in Jigawa State will not receive their discharge certificates for abscondment and other offences during the service year.

Jigawa State NYSC Coordinator, Nurudeen T. Baba, disclosed this in the Dutse, the state capital, at the passing out of the corps members at the Aminu Kano Triangle.

He said those who absconded from the service will automatically repeat one year of the service.

He said a total of 1,244 corps members passed out at the end of the ceremony, explaining that "these patriotic men and women carried out their assignment

Two killed, many injured over feud on River Niger dredging

By Felix Igbekoyi
Correspondent, Asaba

TWO people were reportedly shot dead and many injured on Monday over the controversy trailing sand dredging operations at the River Niger and other inland waterways in Asaba.

The incident came in spite of intervention by the Assistant Inspector General (AIG) of Police, Zone 5, Benin, Ibrahim Baba Ahmed.

The crisis was said to be between one David Opene, a sand dredger, and members of the Association of Tipper and Quarry Owners of Nigeria

(ATQON), Asaba.

It was learnt that the crisis is generating controversy between the Inspector General (IG) of Police, Afiz Ringim, and Ahmed and may be one of the reasons for the AIG's appearance in Abuja yesterday.

Eyewitnesses recounted that trouble started in the morning when workers loyal to both Opene and ATQON clashed, leading to sporadic shooting and destruction of properties and death of two unidentified persons.

Until last weekend, the AIG was said to have deployed his men to the beach to maintain law and order but that the men

retreated owing to the directive from the AIG in a letter dated 9 March to comply with a court order to monitor and enforce peace, law and order along Asaba beach fronts of the bank of River Niger.

In a letter by Director of Public Prosecutions of the Federation, Akin Akintewe, to the IG, entitled, 'Re: Flagrant Disobedience of Court Order by the Nigerian Police', and copied to the AIG and Commissioner of Police, Delta State, it was said the order of the Federal High Court, Benin, dated June 24, 2005 must be obeyed until it is stayed, vacated or set aside.

The tension generated by the illegal harassment, intimidation, collection of tolls and sack of River Niger Sand Operators with the aid of uniform men from the police command, Asaba, informed the meeting between officers from the National Inland Waterway Authority (NIWA), Ministry of Mines and Steel Development (MMSD), ATQON, and other stakeholders conveyed by Ahmed.

According to Chukwuma Ebu, Head of Chambers, CFEbu and Co, solicitors for River Niger Sand Dealers Multi Purpose Coop Ltd, the act of lawlessness was aided by the Delta State Police Command allegedly acting on the directive from Abuja.

Manslaughter: Police sergeant indicts colleague

By Dolapo Tunde-Muraina
Snr Reporter, Lagos

A POLICE officer, Sergeant Asakhamen Satto, on Monday while giving testimony in an on-going trial of his colleague, Corporal Sunday Okafor, charged with manslaughter before an Ikeja High Court, confirmed that the accused actually fired his rifle on the day he was accused of killing someone.

Satto, at the resumed hearing before Justice Olabisi Akinlade, said he was the leader of the Mobile Police team, which included the defendant attached to Access Bank Plc, Idi-Araba branch in Lagos, where the incident happened on October 21, 2009.

In his evidence, led by Mrs. M. Odutola, Satto stated that