

# News

Ex-lawmaker alleges campaign of calumny against Nnaji

By Patience Ogbodo  
Special Correspondent, Bauchi

A FORMER member of the National Assembly, Nick Agbo, has alleged campaign of calumny against Chairman of the Presidential Task Force on Power (PTFP), Bart Nnaji, by those opposed to the ongoing reform in the electric power sector.

In a statement in Abuja on Tuesday, Agbo claimed that the objective of the campaign was to discredit Nnaji.

Until May 29 Nnaji was Special Adviser to President Jonathan on Power.

Agbo said the campaign was aimed at stopping Nnaji from becoming a minister in the new administration of Jonathan "following consistent speculative reports in the media that Nnaji has been penciled down as the next Minister of Power".

"The latest intelligence reports available show that the reactionary forces strongly opposed to changes in the power sector have mobilised hundreds of millions of naira to wage the propaganda war," he added.

Akinadewo, Fakeye, CAN leaders for Motailatu Founder's anniversary

THE annual Founder's anniversary of Motailatu Church, Cherubim and Seraphim Worldwide, Lagos District Headquarters, will hold on Sunday, July 3 at the church's auditorium in Ogba, Ikeja, Lagos.

Primate, Founder and Supreme Head of Motailatu Organisation Worldwide, Archbishop I. M. Akinadewo, assisted by the District Chairman, Superintendent G.F. Akinadewo, and the Minister-in-Charge, Special Apostle James Akinadewo, will preside at the event.

Expected are several men of God, including Prophet G.O. Fakeye of the C&S Church Movement; Baba Aladura Niran Aluko of Saviours Ministries, C&S Aladura; Superior Evangelist Olaolu Kadiiri of Celestial Church of Christ (CCC), Wakati Adura Mi; Prophet M.A. Oganla of Messiah C&S Church; Pastor Sola Omole of C.A.C. Christ Power; Rev. Dr. C.O. Adeyemo, Chairman, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Ojodu Council; Rev. Dr. Igbanan, CAN Chairman, Onigbongbo Council and Bishop Taiwo Ajose, CAN Chairman, Ikeja Council.

Four Square loses founding father

THE Foursquare Gospel Church in Nigeria hereby announces the transition of one of its founding fathers, Rev. (Dr.) James Abayomi Roveio, the last of the church

## Killing of police officer in Kano sparks off Boko Haram scare

By Augustine Madu-West  
Assistant Editor, Kano

THE murder of a police officer in Kano, Umar Suffi, attached to the Gunduawa Police Division in Gerzawa Local Government Area on Monday by unidentified gunmen has sparked off fresh anxiety.

There was an initial fear that the attack was carried out by the Boko Haram sect, but the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Dikko, said it was purely a robbery incident.

He explained that the young traffic officer died from bullet wounds sustained when rob-

bers attacked their operational vehicle during a gun battle.

Dikko told our correspondent that it would be unfair to associate the killing, which was clearly a robbery attack, with the dreaded sect because, to him, the deceased was not alone in the vehicle that was riddled with bullets.

He maintained that the dead officer was only unfortunate to be the only one hit in the encounter.

According to investigations, key and sensitive govern-

ment institutions have beefed up security in their respective complexes, as part of efforts to avoid the infiltration of Boko Haram.

At the Government House, Kano, for instance, vehicle had been barred from parking within 100 metres to the main building, which accommodates the office and residential apartment of the governor.

The main gate to the seat of power is being manned by anti-riot policemen, who have also restricted movement of

people, apparently for effective monitoring of movement in and out of the State House.

Also, a number of plain clothes policemen have increased in the last one week.

It was also discovered that the Bompai Headquarters of the State Police Command, has taken further steps to secure the area with more than a unit of Mobile policemen drafted to man the entrance gate.

This followed the bombing of the Force Headquarters in Abuja last week Thursday by

Gunmen shoot Borno ANPP lawyer, kill Civil Defence officer

By Abdulkareem Haruna  
Senior Reporter, Maiduguri

A TOP legal consultant to the ruling All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) in Borno State, Peter Adibayo Bello, has escaped death by a whisker as suspected Boko Haram assailants, who shot and killed an officer of the Civil Defence Corps, Usman Baba Abba, on Monday evening, left him with clinical injuries.

Daily Independent had gathered from sources close to the prominent Maiduguri-based lawyer that he was shot around the Abaganaram area of Maiduguri on his back home from office at about 7 p.m.

It was relayed by some eyewitnesses that Bello was ambushed by his assailants around his house, and immediately opened fire on him "from different directions".

One of the constitutional lawyer's aides told our reporter that "He had just dropped the lawyers undergoing the NYSC in our chamber and had turned to enter the road leading to his house when the gunmen fired shots at him from different directions and immediately disappeared."

"His car was riddled with bullets and we just hope he will survive the attack because he is in a critical condition".

It was gathered lawyer had opted not to join the ANPP election petition legal team due to the insecurity in the state even though he defended the party effectively in 2003 and in the 2007 Election Petition Tribunals.

Similarly, on the same day the suspected Boko Haram gunmen had paid a visit to a Civil Defence official in his house and killed him in cold blood.

According to those who witnessed the incident, one among the Boko Haram gunmen simply called on the unsuspecting Civil Defence man on that Monday evening as though they wanted to inquire something from him only for him to be shot at by the other one lurking in a corner some yards from Abba's house.

Although Abba Usman did not die immediately, it was gathered he gave up ghost shortly after he was rushed to the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH) by his father.

All effort to get confirmation from the police failed as the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Lawan Abdullahi, said it is no longer in the police purview to confirm such incidence because "a special task force on the situation has been constituted by the Federal Government headed by a Major General". He thereby advised journalists to channel their "inquiries to him (Major General)



Group Life Editor, Independent Newspapers Ltd, Agatha Edo (left), addressing the pupils of Gem Private School, Omole, during their visit to INL Corporate Head Office, Ogba, Lagos on Tuesday. Photo: Kunle Ajayi.

## ICPC quizzes five Customs officers over N15b PHCN equipment

By Dele Moses  
Reporter, Ilorin

INDEPENDENT Corrupt Practices and related offences Commission (ICPC) has commenced investigation into alleged complicity of five senior Customs officers in shady deals in the release of containers of N15 billion worth of transformers and equipments of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN).

The officers, including an Assistant Controller, were al-

leged to have been involved in issuance of fake documents to release the containers from the Terminal warehouse in Ikorodu, Lagos.

The equipments, which were said to be in 10 containers, were reportedly dropped at the warehouse from where they would be deployed to their destinations after the issuance of relevant documents for their release.

It was learnt that the equipments were donated by the Iranian government to boost the

power generation in the country.

Sources close to the Presidency hinted newsmen in Ilorin that the containers were suspected to be fraudulently taken away from the Terminal warehouse through issuance of fake documents for their release.

The sources further stated that, the management of the Customs submitted to the Presidency reports of an in-house panel set up to investigate the matter.

Not satisfied with the re-

ports, the Presidency ordered the ICPC to commence a fresh investigation into the alleged shady deals.

The ICPC has reportedly invited for interrogation, five senior Customs officers suspected to be involved in the alleged issuance of the fake documents.

Resident Consultant, Media and Event of the ICPC, Folu Olamiti, on Tuesday confirmed the development to newsmen in Ilorin on phone, saying the Customs officers had been quizzed.