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EDITORIAL

Jonathan to Nigerians:
Expect tough economic
times

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Kerosene
scarcity:
**Reps invite
Diezani,
NNPC boss**

By Adeola Yusuf (Lagos) and
Rotimi Akinwumi (Abuja)

LAWMAKERS have asked Petroleum Minister Diezani Alison-Madueke and Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Group Managing Director, Austin Oniwon, to appear before them tomorrow to explain the persistent kerosene scarcity in the country.

Boko Haram kills seven in Borno

- Victims include two policemen, one soldier, one Customs officer
- Police raid hideout in Bauchi, kill three sect members
- Senate meets service chiefs, gets assurance on security

By Sola Shittu (Abuja),
Abdulkareem Haruna
(Maiduguri) and Patience
Ogbodo (Bauchi)

SENATORS met with service chiefs in camera on Tuesday to discuss the *Boko Haram* onslaught claiming lives and property in the North, particularly in Kaduna, Maiduguri,

Ruling house asks Aregbesola, IG to implement court order on deposed Ataoja

Borno, and Bauchi, where the police have attacked the hideout of the jihadists.

But *Boko Haram* piled on the terror on Tuesday in Mai-

duguri, killing seven persons, including two policemen, one soldier, one Customs officer, and three civilians.

One of the policemen, Ba-

bagana Angus, was attached to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) at the Gwange divisional police station.

Gunmen stormed his residence at about 11 a.m. on a motorcycle and disappeared

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Zuma calls for 'urgent' Libya peace talks

South African President Jacob Zuma on Tuesday called for Libya to urgently begin peace negotiations, after his talks with Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev on the sidelines of a NATO meeting.

"We emphasised the importance of starting negotiations urgently, and we requested NATO to assist to persuade the TNC (the rebel's Transitional National Council) to remove some of the preconditions that are making it hard or impossible to start with the negotiation process," Zuma said.

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Tomorrow in

INDEPENDENT
Thursday, July 7, 2011

News

Boko Haram kills seven in Borno

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as soon as they accomplished their dastardly mission.

The other policeman was mowed down at the same Gwange at about 3.30 p.m.

The soldier was killed at London Chiki at about 4 p.m. Joint Task Force (JTF) Commander, Major General Jack Nwaogbo, confirmed the murder of the soldier.

In attendance at the meeting in the Senate were National Security Adviser, Andrew Azazi; Chief of Defence Staff, Air Chief Marshal Oluseyi Petinrin; Inspector General of Police, Hafiz Ringim, and State Security Service (SSS) Director, Ita Ekenyong.

Senate Leader Victor Ndoma-Egba told reporters later that the meeting covered all security challenges, including the *Boko Haram* phenomenon.

"Questions were asked, clarifications sought, and they were given. The security chiefs assured Nigerians that

they are on top of the situation and that these challenges, especially the challenge of *Boko Haram*, will be contained sooner than later," he said.

He added that the security chiefs said arrests have been made.

The initial concern of the security chiefs was on an enabling law to arrest suspects but that has been laid to rest with the Anti Terrorism Act.

Suspects were arrested in the past only for them to be released because there was no law under which to charge them to court.

"But with the promulgation of Anti Terrorism Act we now have appropriate legal framework within which we can deal with the situation.

"The Act has also made the international community to have confidence in our readiness to fight terrorism," Ndoma-Egba noted.

Back in Bauchi, three persons were killed on Tuesday and several others injured

when the police attacked the hideout of *Boko Haram* in the Anguwan Kura area of the metropolis.

Gunshots caused panic among residents, particularly around Dutse Tanshi, Danjuma Goje Street, Federal Low Cost Housing, and Games Village.

The police operation, which lasted about six hours, was a pro-active action to smoke out *Boko Haram* members from their strongholds in the state.

An eyewitness said he saw one man who was shot in the stomach and another in his hand and legs.

Police Public Relations Officer, Mohammad Barau, confirmed that the operation was based on a tip off about the hideout.

Policemen cordoned off the house and the occupants opened fire. The police responded and overpowered them.

According to Barau, the

house was searched and a gun and ammunition were recovered.

An injured sect member was arrested and taken to hospital.

The meeting in the Senate forced the shifting of screening of Ministerial nominees to today.

President Goodluck Jonathan has replaced on the list the name of Tonye Cole with that of former Finance Minister Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, now World Bank Managing Director.

Those who were to be screened on Tuesday included Olusegun Aganga, Obadi-ah Ando, Bassey Ewa, Abba Moro, Samuel Ortom, Bukar Tijani, Mike Omolemen, Barth Nnaji, Iris Umar, and Viola Onwuliri.

Bello Mohammed, Bolaji Abdullahi, Olugbenga Ashiru, Akinwumi Adesina, Olusola Obada, Olajumoke Akinjide, Lawan Ngama, Bashar Yuguda, and Zainab Kuchi.

Ohanaeze insists on PDP Chairmanship for S'East

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According to the source, it is not only logical but reasonable that the South East should complete its tenure that began in 2008.

"Ohanaeze is resolute and is backed by every strong voice you can think of in the South East."

The zone relies on Article 14(5) of the PDP constitution to lay its claim on the Chairmanship.

The article reads: "Where a vacancy occurs in any of the offices of the party, the NEC (National Executive Committee) shall appoint a substitute from the zone where the officer originated pending the conduct of election to fill the vacancy."

The North East also wants the post, currently occupied in an acting capacity by Haliru Mohammed.