

Ibori pleads guilty to money laundering charges

By Tunde Opeseitan

Snr Reporter, Lagos (With Agency Report)

FORMER Delta State Governor, James Ibori, on Monday pleaded guilty in a United Kingdom court to money laundering charges.

Appearing at Southwark Crown Court in London on two

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Boko Haram kills three policemen in Adamawa, two others in Kaduna

By Baba Negedu

Reporter, Kaduna

ADAMAWA State Police Command confirmed on Monday that three of its men were killed by unidentified gunmen on Sunday night at the Shuwa Divisional Police Station in Madagali Local Government.

It was gathered that there was a gun battle between the

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deceased policemen and their attackers who reportedly used locally made improvised explo-

sive devices for the assault.

The attack took place at about 8.00 p.m. at the police outpost,

leading to the death of the three officers.

The attack was suspected to have been carried out by the insurgent Boko Haram Islamic sect.

Madagali Local Government area shares common borders

with Borno State where activities of the extremist sect started few years ago.

Adamawa State Commissioner of Police, Adenrele Shinaba, who spoke through the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Altine Daniel, stated that details of the attack were still sketchy as the command was yet to get full report of the incident.

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"But I can authoritatively tell you that we lost three officers, all of them Corporals and three or four others are in hospitals," the police image maker disclosed.

Altine said apart from the three police Corporals that were killed, many others, including an Inspector, sustained injuries.

But eyewitnesses told our reporter that the casualty figure might be higher.

The invading gunmen reportedly carried away all the arms and ammunition at the station after dislodging the officers on guard.

The witnesses added that the attacker took the police personnel on duty by surprise as they came in pretending to be people wanting to lodge complaints before opening fire on their targets.

"Thereafter, they started attacking the policemen on guard; the sound of gunshots made people to scamper to safety as they ran helter skelter in the pandemonium that ensued."

In a similar development, gunmen suspected to be members of the Boko Haram sect on Sunday night raided some communities in Kaura Local Government Area of Kaduna State, killing two men and critically wounding a woman.

Chairperson of the council area, Florence Aya, told newsmen on phone on Monday that the incident took place "around 11.00 p.m. on Sunday. Some people with guns came to Kukum Gida, just near the palace of the chief, in Kagoro and

opened fire on some unsuspecting residents. They killed two youths there and fled."

The same night another attack was carried out at a different village on the way to Gidan Waya.

"One woman was severely injured. Her condition is very critical. We are thinking of moving her away from the Kafanchan General Hospital, to another place," Aya said.

This brought to eight the number people killed, and 15 injured in night raids in Kaura local council area since December 2011.

State Governor, Patrick Yakowa, said the attacks were against the grains of the peace initiatives by the state government.

A statement on Monday by the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Media and Publicity said: "The Governor of Kaduna State, Sir Patrick Ibrahim Yakowa, has observed with concern the recent spate of attacks deliberately meted out on communities and innocent citizens in some parts of the state, with intent to disrupt the peace currently being enjoyed.

"His Excellency totally condemns such killings, done under whatever guise or motive and describes it as unnecessary, unwarranted and unfortunate.

"It is in pursuance of full peace in our state that made the Kaduna State Government to set up the Peace and Reconciliation Committee that is now opening up channels for direct and candid communication, targeted at reconciling all and finding lasting solutions in

resolving whatever grievances that may exist in our society.

"His Excellency is of the view that, this committee is a window of opportunity that all should utilise, towards consolidating the return to full peace instead of resorting to killings of innocent citizens of the state.

"Already, all interim chairmen of local councils within the state have been directed to continue dialogue with all parties in their communities on genuine peace and full reconciliation.

"Government wishes to assure all law-abiding citizens of Kaduna State that security agencies are doing all within their powers to apprehend and prosecute the perpetrators of such crimes."

Kaduna State police spokesman, Aminu Lawal, could not confirm the attacks, as he neither picked his calls nor responded to a text message inquiring about the incident.

Also reacting to the spate of killings in many parts of the North, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar urged members of the Boko Haram sect to seize the opportunity offered for dialogue with the Federal Government in the interest of unity, stability and economic development of the country.

He made the call particularly against the backdrop of renewed attacks by the sect in Jos and Gombe, which led to scores of death over the weekend.

Atiku, who spoke on Monday in a statement by his Media Office in Abuja, believes that no one would take the extremist group or its agenda serious

when it continues to remain faceless.

According to him, it is high time the group stepped out to articulate its grievances and thereby open a window for dialogue.

The former Vice President reiterated his earlier position that there can be no justification for killings of Nigerians under any guise.

He decried the killings and destruction of properties, noting that the activities of Boko Haram amount to a declaration of war on the Nigerian state.

"If Boko Haram and its leadership have something to say; if they have any grouse against the Nigerian state, the proper thing for them is to come out in flesh and state it, so that a process of dialogue that will eventually lead to the resolution of the crisis and the siege on Nigerians can commence in earnest," Atiku said.

He expressed his condolences to the affected families and governments and people of Plateau and Gombe over the killings in Jos and Gombe.

Meanwhile, apex Northern socio-political organisation, Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), has condemned recent spate of bombings by the Boko Haram group.

ACF in a statement in Kaduna on Monday said the development was not good enough, as those killed in the process did not have anything to do with the sect's grievances.

The statement was signed by National Publicity Secretary of the Forum, Anthony Sani.

It appealed to the sect members to take due legal process in addressing their grievances in the court of law.

ACF also frowned at reprisal attacks in Plateau State that followed the bombing of a church in Jos on Sunday where several people died and others were injured.

ACF's statement reads in part: "Because such attacks are not within the tenets of any religion, ACF appeals to perpetrators to stop the mindless killing of innocent people, and avail themselves of due process of law and constructive engagements in addressing any perceived grievances.

"Arewa Consultative Forum seriously frowns at the spate of bomb explosions directed at innocent Nigerians, including worshippers, as symbolised by those in mosque in Kano, COCIN Church in Jos and those of prisons in Gombe, that have been credited to Boko Haram.

"The forum is also not happy with the reported reprisal attacks, precisely because the attacks by both Boko Haram and reprisals are directed at innocent people who are not party to any perceived grievances of the feuding parties.

"For those who have lost loved ones and sustained injuries, ACF prays God to give them the fortitude to bear the loss."

The group call on all "Nigerians of all religions, all regions, all nationalities and of all political stripes, to come together and live up the collective challenges posed by insecurity across the nation."