

BORNO

## News

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**Awo: Anglican Bishop, Adebiyi, seeks Yoruba unity**

TWENTY-FIVE years after the death of Chief Obafemi Awolowo, Bishop for Lagos West, Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), Bishop Peter Adebiyi, has called for unity among the Yoruba.

He called on Bola Tinubu, Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) national leader and former President Olusegun Obasanjo, to lead the unification charge.

But in a chat with reporters later, Tinubu said though Yoruba unity is a noble idea, the Yoruba had always pressed their constitutional rights to belong to whatever political parties they chose.

Bishop Adebiyi spoke at a special service at the Obafemi Awolowo Memorial Church, Ikenne, Ogun State, to mark the

## Three killed, others injured as gunmen, JTF engage in shootout

By **Abdulkareem Haruna**,  
Snr Reporter, Maiduguri

**A SUSPECTED** Boko Haram member and two traders were on Wednesday confirmed to have been killed after sect members attacked Gamboru market in Maiduguri, which provoked a gun duel between them and the operatives of the peacekeeping Joint Task Force (JTF).

A policeman and another soldier were seriously injured alongside two other Boko Haram members, even as the

JTF said it has arrested one of the attacking gunmen.

An eyewitness told journalists that the shootout started when some gunmen shot dead two traders at about 8.30am when traders and customers at Gamboru market were settling down for the day's business.

According to the source, traders had to abandon their wares and "ran for dear life when a group of gunmen attacked and shot dead two traders and then immediately fled away shooting in the

air".

Shortly after that, at about 11am the gunmen reorganised and returned to attack a JTF security post located near the market, even as the personnel of the task force engaged them in a gun battle in which one of the sect members, was killed, two others injured and one arrested, according to JTF spokesman, Lt. Col. Sagir Musa.

According to Lt Col Musa, "the JTF, aka Operation Restore Order 1, has at about 1115 hours today (Wednes-

day) at a spot close to Gambouru Market area in Maiduguri metropolis, successfully repelled a suspected Boko Haram attack on one of its security locations.

"One Boko Haram terrorist was killed, two injured and two arrested. One locally made pistol and a tricycle used by the terrorist to attack the military location were recovered.

"No soldier or civilian was killed or injured throughout the encounter that took place for less than five minutes".

**Funding critical to growth of Nigerian independent marketers - Avuru**

By **Johnson Ayantunji**  
Assistant News Editor, Lagos

**MANAGING** Director of Seplat Petroleum Development Company, Austin Avuru, has advocated for more funding for indigenous petroleum companies to be able to compete with their foreign counterparts.

Speaking during the PETAN event at the just-concluded annual Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) in Houston, USA, Avuru, traced the history of indigenous participation in oil and gas to the emergence of Dubri oil, which he cited as Nigeria's oldest Independent Producer, in 1987.

He however noted that the