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Seven die in Lagos pipeline explosion

By Adeola Yusuf
Senior Correspondent, Lagos

SEVEN pipeline vandals were feared dead in a pipeline explosion at Ijedodo area of Ijebu in Isolo Ojo Local Government Area of Lagos State.

When Daily Independent visited the scene there was sporadic shooting by the vandals while the fire was still raging and security agents had to seek reinforcement.

This development has signaled imminent fuel scarcity in Lagos and environs during the forthcoming yuletide as the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) was on Tuesday forced to shutdown system 2B pipeline.

This measure was taken to avert further loss of lives and to allow efforts to extinguish the fire.

Nemesis caught up with the thieves who, according to eye witness, vandalised the facility in the area when an explosion occurred with a ragging inferno that burnt them to ashes.

Although the exact casualty figure could not be ascertained when Daily Independent visited the scene, residents told our correspondent that the vandals numbering about four were unlucky in the huge pipeline fire which raged for over five hours.

Although, NNPC officials have shut down supplies, as

NEMA seems to be having problems accessing the route.

According to a witness, the raging fire started around 9 p.m. on Monday when about 10 oil thieves loaded in two canoes arrived the scene and started scooping fuel into hundreds of 50 kilogramme jerry cans.

However, nemesis caught up with them when fire was ignited and consumed the whole environment, including the thieves, their jerry cans and other materials.

Tunde Aroyewun, a resident of the area told Daily Independent that the oil thieves usually come to the area in canoes and after scooping fuel, they travelled on the stream to the Festac axis.

As at the time of filing this report, the fire was still raging and a thick smoke enveloped the area. No fire fighters were available.

But some men of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and NNPC officials were at the scene to assess the situation.

Leader of the NSCDC leader, who identified himself as O. A. Baiyewun, said his team was facing serious challenges.

An NNPC official who craved anonymity added: "You can see that the fire is still raging. We can't go far to examine the damaged pipeline or know the number of people killed because the pipeline is buried under water."



Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Attahiru Jega (left), member, Senate Committee on INEC, Kabiru Jajare (middle), and Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on INEC, Jerry Manwe, during a stakeholder validation conference in Abuja on Tuesday.

2015: UPP insists on Igbo presidency

By Emmanuel Nzomiwu,
Correspondent, Enugu

NEWLY registered United Progressives Party (UPP) has reaffirmed its commitment to the realization of a Nigerian president of Igbo extraction in 2015.

Founder and National Chair-

man showed that major stakeholders in Igboland have spoken and that the Nigerian political equation has changed for the better.

"If you believe in miracle, you will see the miracle. I say this because you can see what happened today. The major

us," the UPP boss said.

Okorie noted that there are many marginalized sections of this country, such as the Christians in the North who do not have a platform to contest election and are looking forward to UPP as a platform that would

Federal Capital Territory where there are only six major parties contesting area council elections and UPP happened to be one of them.

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