

Clearly, what the and conveyed in his letter
Amendment Bill 2013 seeks of 14/3/2013 but the com-
to appropriate is more than

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

***Two feared killed, as explosion rocks Atlas Cove Jetty pipeline**

•Shell laments oil theft, loses 22m barrels yearly

By Adeola Yusuf (Lagos) and Daniel Abia (Port Harcourt)

TWO SUSPECTED vandals were on Wednesday feared killed in an explosion that rocked a fuel pipeline near the Atlas Cove Jetty, Lagos, the biggest petroleum products' storage facility in Nigeria.

The explosion followed the vandalism of petro-

leum pipeline at the Akinbo Jetty, Ilado in Lagos.

A source at the Akinbo Jetty, scene of the explosion, disclosed this to *Daily Independent* on Wednesday, adding that over 20 other pipeline vandals and oil thieves escaped with various degrees of injury.

The National Emergen-

CONTINUES ON PAGE 2

Kano police arrest 3,241 intercept

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rocks Atlas
Cove Jetty

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

cy Management Agency (NEMA) and the Nigerian Navy confirmed that the explosion was caused by activities of the vandals.

While the NEMA said it was yet to ascertain the actual number of the dead and injured people in the explosion, the Navy stated, however, that its investigation showed that no casualty was recorded in the fire, which raged for over six hours (between 4.00 a.m. and 10.48 a.m.).

Spokesman of NEMA, South West, Ibrahim Farinloye, said the prompt intervention of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and other agencies ensured that the fire was put out.

"The fire did not start from the main pipeline but

rather the valve supplying the product was what exploded.

"The first batch of our team reached there around 7.30 a.m. and the fire was finally put out at the Akinbo Jetty of Atlas Cove around 10.48 a.m."

The NNPC, in the same vein, allayed fear that the explosion could lead to fuel scarcity.

Acting Group General Manager, Group Public Affairs division of the NNPC, Tuminu Green, could not be reached on phone but a staff of the corporation who is not authorised to speak on the matter said: "There was an explosion near Atlas Cove this morning but this did not have any serious interference with the activities at the storage facility."

Also speaking on the in-

cident, spokesperson for the Western Naval Command, Jerry Omodara, a Lt-Cdr, said the situation had "been brought under control and I spoke with the Commander NNS Beecroft, Commodore Chris Ezekobe, and he confirmed that he had already deployed some officers to the area."

According to him, preliminary investigations revealed that vandals broke the pipeline valve to siphon fuel when it exploded.

The command's spokesman said boats used by the vandals and over 200 jerry cans were discovered at the scene of the explosion.

Another report on Wednesday said Dutch oil giant, Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), has listed oil theft as one of the greatest threats facing its operations in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria,

lamenting that it loses over 22 million barrels of crude oil every year to the crime.

General Manager, Communications, in the SPDC, Philip Mshelbila, stated this in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, at a one-day summit for practising journalists in the state.

Mshelbila, who described oil theft as a real challenge to the environment, said the development had forced the multi-national oil firm to shut down the Trans-Niger Trunk Line and the Nembe Creek Trunk Line.

He decried the increasing rate of kidnapping of both staff and their relatives as well as the company's contractors, pointing out that at least two staff of the firm were recently killed by suspected kidnappers while carrying out an environmental survey in one of the company's facilities.

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captive women
a judge on Wednesday

"That stands. It is time. Why
will it be