

Delta ruler urges release of oil commission's N30billion

THE paramount ruler of Seimbiri Kingdom of Burutu Local Government Area of Delta State, Pere Charles Ayemi-Botu, has appealed to the state government to release the over N30billion appropriated for the Delta State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission (DESOPADEC).

The royal father lamented that DESOPADEC had not been fully mobilised with funds over five months after it was set up by the Delta State Government in February.

Pere Ayemi-Botu, who was the first elected Chairman of the Association of Traditional Rulers of the Oil Producing Communities of Nigeria (ATROMPCON), alleged that despite the over N300billion received by the state from the 13 per cent derivation fund, the actual oil bearing communities have not benefited.

Rather, he said: "The hinterlands of Delta State have benefited more than 95 per cent of the N300billion that was real-

From Shola O'Neill, Warri
ised in the past eight years in providing tertiary institutions with campuses, polytechnics, electricity, well equipped hospitals, potable water, good roads... in spite of the fact that more than 80 per cent of the oil wealth comes from there."

The monarch, whose position was contained in a statement yesterday in Warri, criticised the statement of Mr. Monday

Igbuya, Chairman of the Delta State House of Assembly Committee on DESOPADEC, representing Sapele Constituency. He warned the commission against white elephant projects.

Recalling that Igbuya was the lawmaker who moved the motion for the dissolution of the former board of the commission, Pere Botu said: "A cursory glance at such a statement during the maiden visit to

the commission reconstituted just three weeks ago, speaks volume and absolutely leaves much to be desired."

He advised Igbuya and his committee to concentrate on the constitutional role for which he was elected and stop chasing shadows.

Besides, the former ATROMPCON chairman said DESOPADEC should be praised for engaging in laudable ventures it had initiated, including the proposed partnership with a foreign firm, Trans Atlantic Corporation of Wall Street, New York.

Three killed in Lagos road crashes

By Olalana Owolabi

THREE people were reported killed in separate motor accidents in Lagos.

The accidents, it was learnt, occurred in Ikeja, Ikorodu and Olodi Apapa.

The Nation gathered that in one of the accidents on Opebi Road, Ikeja, a truck lost control and ran into a company fence and a parked Peugeot 505 car.

The conductor of the truck died on his way to the hospital. The driver is responding to treatment at

the Ikeja General Hospital.

The truck marked XA 114 MUS and the Peugeot car marked CE 146 EKY were towed to the Ikeja police station.

The body of the conductor had been deposited at the mortuary.

In a related development, a Daf trailer truck with Reg. No XA 416 RNG ran into another Daf trailer truck with Reg. No XA 673 KJA, killing one of the drivers

Motorcyclists protest death of colleague in Warri

THERE was pandemonium yesterday in Warri, Delta State, following protest by commercial motorcyclists over the death of their colleague.

He was reportedly crushed by a lorry at a police checkpoint. The accident occurred at Deco junction, Warri Sapele road.

It was learnt that the deceased's death brought the death toll from motorcycle accidents to five in barely 50 hours in the twin cities of Effurun

From Shola O'Neill, Warri and Warri.

A pregnant woman was among four victims on Sunday; she was crushed at a busy junction on the Effurun-Warri Road.

Similarly, another Okada rider and his passenger died on the spot when they were allegedly run over by a female driver at the Urhobo College axis of the road.

The lady escaped death by the whiskers as irate Okada men gathered and set the car ablaze. The car-

cass of the burnt vehicle was still lying at the scene at the time of this report.

Our correspondent gathered that tragedy struck yesterday morning when a lorry with registration number XA 648 BKW lost control and crushed the commercial motorcyclist.

An eyewitness, who identified himself simply as Joseph, said: "The traffic warden at the junction stopped him and suddenly this lorry, which seemed to have lost control, ran over him."

"The Okada rider died on the spot. The vehicle ran over his passenger's leg."

Bits and pieces of flesh and bone were strewn all over the road when our correspondent visited the scene at 11:13am yesterday.

What could have turned into a bloody clash between commercial motorcyclists and policemen was however aborted by the soldiers of the Joint Task Force, code-named Operation Restore Hope. Irate Okada riders moved to

lynch the traffic warden shortly after the accident, but they were stopped by the soldiers.

Our correspondent, who arrived the scene minutes after the accident, saw rifle-clutching soldiers, appealing to the aggrieved mob not to take the laws into their hands.

Some of the motorcyclists told our correspondent that their anger stemmed from their incessant exploitation by policemen at checkpoints in the city.