

# 13 fuel smugglers burnt to death in Adamawa

■ Barnabas MANYAM, Yola ■

**T**HIRTEEN people have been burnt to death in illegal petroleum deals in Adamawa State. The victims lost their lives when the vehicle they were travelling in had a burst tyre and the vehicle, a trailer loaded with drums of petrol, somersaulted near a community in Girei Local Government Area.

Investigation at the scene of the accident revealed that the vehicle was travelling to the neighboring Republic of Cameroun with petrol smuggled in many drums when its front tyre burst and caught fire, killing 13 of the occupants while two others escaped to the bush.

Petrol stations in Girei Local Government Area are in the habit of increasing the pump price of fuel arbitrarily and smuggling the product to the neighbouring Cameroun Republic.

When our correspondent visited the area, smoke was bellowing from the site of the accident while many drums of petrol were seen burning.

## Lagos Deputy Governor tasks pilgrims

**L**AGOS State Deputy Governor, Mrs. Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire, has charged intending Christian pilgrims on the need to be mindful of the essence of the exercise and be good ambassadors of the state.

Orelope-Adefulire gave the charge yesterday while delivering her keynote address at the sensitization programme organised by the State Christian Pilgrims' Welfare Board for Year 2011 pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

The event, which held at the Blue Roof of the Lagos State Television Agidingbi, had in attendance, the Lagos State Chairman of the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN), Chief Henry Ajomale, religious leaders including the Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria, Rev. Monsignor Bernard Okodua, Rev Wilson Badejo and Rev. Edward Alabi amongst others.

The deputy governor said going on pilgrimage is geared to-

■ Miriam NDIKANWU ■

wards attracting the blessings of God, urging them to go with a prayerful attitude and comport themselves in a manner that will portray the state positively.

"I think there have been incidents of supernatural healing and deliverance for some people on past visits. So you never can tell if going there could mark the commencement of a new beginning in your life and also open other phase in your existence."

she thank them for continuing to be a shining light to other pilgrims from other state of the country, stressing that this gesture earned the state the award of the best supporting state in 2010.

"Lagos State government really appreciates you and we will continue to rely on your prayers and spiritual counsel. Our government is a product of your many prayers and support both on the pulpit and outside the churches.