

News

or trial over killings

nce Minister

Air Marshal Petarin, who noted that the JTF operation in the state was targeted only at uprooting the Boko Haram militants, said the military was not executing a religious war.

"Let me state clearly that the government did not send us here to deal with any religious war."

"We are here to stamp out those shooting people and throwing explosives in market places. We are not here to fight a religious war."

Speaking with reporters after inspecting facilities at the Nigeria Defence Academy (NDA) in Kaduna, Defence Minister Mohammad said the government has its own way of handling the issue, even though Nigerians have suggested dialogue.

Mohammed said: "People can suggest dialogue or what-ever they want to suggest about Boko Haram. We have

our method of operation." The activities of the group will soon fizzle out, just like the activities of militants in the Niger Delta.

According to the minister, insecurity has become a global phenomenon and it is giving the government concern. He said the government would modify its security plan to counter any crisis that could disrupt the nation's peace and unity.

The minister said: "The government is handling the issue of Boko Haram in Maiduguri, and very soon, it will be a thing of the past. But, we are worried for Nigeria and Nigerians who become victims of the various incidents."

"People can suggest dialogue or what they want to suggest about Boko Haram. We have our method of operation. Even before the Boko Haram, the police and the military had their *modus operandi*. They have their operational order, and we have security plan for this country."

'How fraudsters dared police chief'

By Joseph Jibueze

CHIEF Magistrate's Court, sitting in Ikeja, yesterday heard how dare-devil conned led by one Timothy Moses, 36, attempted to defraud former Lagos Police Commissioner, Mr Marvell Akpoyibo, of N1.7 million.

Testifying during Moses' trial before Magistrate Olufermi Isaac, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), Mr Jasper Ireku, said the accused contacted the police chief on phone and asked him to finance a deal that promised huge returns.

Akpoyibo played along and Moses, who allegedly connived with others in the

Five dead in TASUED, Nekede Polytechnic riots

IT was a sad day yesterday for students at the Tai Solarin University of Education (TASUED), Ijebu, near Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State and the Federal Polytechnic, Nekede, Owerri, Imo State.

Five students were feared dead in the crises that rocked the two institutions.

Three students of the Federal Polytechnic were allegedly killed when a riot broke out within the school premises. The riot followed a protest by students over hike in school fees. Two others were allegedly shot by policemen on the trail of suspected cultists at TASUED.

Several students were injured in the two incidents.

At about 6:30am yesterday, the students, numbering about 10,000, went on the rampage, alleging increase in fees by the school authorities.

They blocked the major roads in Owerri, the state capital. Chanting war songs, they demanded the immediate removal of the Rector, Dr. Celestine Njoku.

The major roads barricaded included: Owerri-Aba Expressway,

From Ernest Nwokolo, Abeokuta and Emma Mgbeshurike, Owerri

Douglas, Bank Road, Assumpta Avenue, leading to Imo Government House, thereby paralysing vehicular movement for more than five hours.

When *The Nation* visited the institution at about 8:00am, the main gate was shut and there were no securitymen in sight. Some cars belonging to lecturers were damaged by the rampaging students.

Also damaged were the Rector's Office, the Students' Union Government (SUG) Secretariat, forcing the academic staff to flee the campus.

Reacting to the development, the institution's Public Relations Officer (PRO) Nze Obinna Okafor, denied any increase in fees. He attributed the unrest to the SUG election, the result of which, he said, angered some of the students.

Okafor noted that the riot did not start within the campus, but planned elsewhere in the village and later extended to the school premises.

On the damage done to the school property and the killing of some stu-

dents, Okafor denied any knowledge of such.

The management of the institution immediately ordered the students to vacate the campus till further notice. The directive was signed by the Registrar Mr. I. M. Aligbe.

When contacted, the police Public Relations Officer (PRO), Linus Nwaiwu, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), stated that the police got wind of the riot on the campus and dispatched officers to restore normalcy. He, however, could not confirm if there were casualties.

At Ijebu, two students were feared dead while over eight others were injured when policemen from Ijebu Police Area Command, Ijebu-Ode, opened fire on them at the campus, killing two, including Mr Olawale Lasisi.

The Ijebu-Ore stretch of the expressway, where the Ijebu Area Command of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) has its headquarters, was besieged by thousands of students, who were protesting the killing of Olawale and the shooting of his colleagues.

The protest, which turned wild,

triggered a more repressive action against the students.

In a telephone interview, TASUED's Vice Chancellor Prof. Segun Awonusi, said he was already meeting with stakeholders and the students' representatives to douse tension within the campus and host community.

The Dean of Students Affairs, Dr Segun Ayinde, told *The Nation* that the killing occurred outside the campus, while policemen from the Rapid Response Squad (RRS) were on the trail of suspected cultists, who had raped two female students in a gross act of cruelty.

He said: "Two female students were abducted by suspected cultists and the girls were gang-raped, stripped naked and humiliated. The photographs taken during the acts were being circulated on facebook, shared on phones with blue tooth and the internet. The parents of one of the victims reported the matter to police."

The police brought the girl to the school because she said she could identify the suspects and it was while trying to arrest the suspects who were trying to escape that stray

bullets, hit the victim (Olawale Lasisi)."

Lasisi (aka *Zigima*), was allegedly shot at close range by the police while fleeing with other students in an atmosphere of pandemonium when gunshots boomed at the TASUED campus last Tuesday.

The deceased, a 200 level student in the Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, *The Nation* learnt, was shot along with two others at about 3:30pm. He died on the spot while two of his colleagues, who were captured, merely sustained minor injuries.

His aunt Mrs. Soyemi Bamidele,

who spoke with *The Nation* on telephone amid sobs, said the remains of Olawale had been deposited at the morgue of the state hospital, Ijebu-Ode.

She expressed regret that neither the police nor the varsity authority had told the family the circumstances that led to the killing of their son.

Police PRO Mr. Olumuyiwa Adejebi, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) said he was on his way to Ijebu-Ode for a first-hand information on the development.

New number plates out next month

DETERMINED to harmonise and streamline all existing modes of vehicle licensing nationwide, the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) has concluded plans to roll out new number plates next month.

The FRSC Corps Marshal and Chief Executive, Osita Chidoka told reporters at a news conference in Abuja yesterday that the number plates form part of the Corps' strategies to restore order and instil sanity in the nation's Motor Vehicle Administration Scheme, adding that under the new arrangement, number plates allocated to vehicle owners will have identification tags bearing the number plate, affixed to the windscreen for easy security checks.

On the features of the number plate, Chidoka disclosed that aside from the

