

## NEWS

## Gunmen kill four in Plateau

THE peace enjoyed by the indigenes and residents of Plateau State during and after the Christmas was disrupted yesterday when gunmen suspected to be Fulani herdsmen sneaked into Bachit village in Riyom Local Government and killed three people, leaving others injured.

Information received also showed that a retired soldier living in Rim village in the local government was also

killed in his home on Christmas day by people suspected to be Fulani herdsmen.

The men, said to be more than 10, arrived Bachit village in the early hours of yesterday and forcefully entered a house, shooting a man and his wife at close range in their sleep.

When trying to escape, a man, who was said to have seen them leaving, was also killed. As they left the village, they shot at random,

during which stray bullets hit some people and others were attacked with machetes. Some of the injured are currently receiving treatment at the Vom Christian Hospital.

A lawmaker representing Riyom Constituency, Mr. Daniel Dem, said the mode of the killings was not different from the previous ones, adding that those behind the act were the same people that have been attack-

ing the local government.

He appealed for calm and enjoined the people to be more vigilant, adding that they should not only rely on the security men posted to the area to guarantee their safety.

Police spokesman Abuh Emmanuel could not be reached for confirmation, but information gathered indicated that the incident is being investigated to arrest the culprits.

## NDLEA uncovers three drug factories

THE Chairman/Chief Executive of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Ahmadu Giade, has raised the alarm over the health and security implications of the illegal Methamphetamine production in the country.

Three Methamphetamine production factories have been discovered in Lagos and Anambra states. Besides, a suspected Colombian drug kingpin, who specialises in Methamphetamine production, has been arrested.

Giade, who described the development as sad and worrisome, said: "Our investigation has shown that the Colombian Methamphetamine production expert, Gonzelo Osorio aka Fabian Arcila and Baez Benitez Milan were invited to establish three clandestine laboratories on a \$38,000 weekly contract. This is sad and worrisome. It's a call on stakeholders to pay

attention to this dangerous twist in our nation's drug trade."

Narcotic investigators have arrested seven members of the criminal gang who are helping in further investigation. They are Gonzelo Osorio, Gabriel Onyebuchi Obi, Anthony Ebi, Olisa Cyprian Onyebuchukwu, Mickey Ezeokoli, Solomon Ogbonna and Chidi Alexandra Efeagwazi. Twelve vehicles belonging to suspected members of the cartel have been confiscated. NDLEA has traced four houses to the criminal group.

The undercover operation that led to the crackdown on the criminal gang began in November last year when Osorio was contracted by a Nigerian drug syndicate to establish three Methamphetamine production laboratories in different parts of the country. According to Giade, the operation is one of the best coordinated in terms of

duration, expertise and professionalism.

He said the first clandestine laboratory Osorio established was situated at Majek in Ibeju Lekki Local Government Area of Lagos State. Another one was located at Nanka in Nnewi area of Anambra State. Members of the criminal gang were about establishing the third laboratory when they were apprehended by NDLEA officers.

Giade said: "Osorio left the country in December last year and returned on May 30 with a false identity as a citizen of Paraguay with the name, Baez Benitez Milan, on his travel documents. He is regarded as a Methamphetamine production expert in the country and was hired on \$38,000 weekly by the drug cartel."

The NDLEA boss said when the operation was ongoing, a suspect was apprehended in Lagos for using his home for the production of



•Giade

Methamphetamine.

"Concerted efforts of stakeholders are required. The suspects involved in the criminal act are either ignorant of the lethal health consequences of their actions or have been blinded by their selfish interests. Methamphetamine production endangers public health. More worrisome is the security implication due to the huge profit involved," he added.

## Two still missing two days after canoe accident

By Eric Ikhlale

TWO people are still missing two days after the canoe in which they were travelling capsized on Christmas day in Tohon, a community in Badary Local Government, Lagos State.

The missing two, an aged woman who had her grandchild strapped to her back, and a young man, were with two other people in the canoe when it capsized in the middle of the river around 9pm.

They were said to be travelling from Tohon to Vewhe, Ipokia in Ogun State to attend a naming ceremony.

The man, who paddled the canoe, identified as Peter and a female passenger survived.

Efforts by local divers led to the recovery of the body of the child early on Wednesday.

It was found floating close to the foot of the Tohon river jetty.

Also recovered was a motorcycle, with which the missing man conveyed the missing woman and the child to the jetty before they boarded the boat. They were said to also be travelling with the motorcycle in the canoe.

The Baale of Tohon, Chief

Jimoh Wusu, who confirmed the incident, said the victims have not been identified.

He said they were not members of his community, adding that they passed through the place to link their destination.

It was learnt that Peter, who is currently being detained at the Badagry Police Station, was reluctant in going on the journey.

He was said to have expressed fear over his ability to navigate the water that was covered by weeds.

It was learnt that two officials of the Marine Police were at the Tohon jetty between 12 noon and 1pm on Wednesday.

Eyewitness told *The Nation* that though they had come to help search for the missing passengers, they left moments later, complaining that their operation would be hindered by the weeds on the water.

A police officer, who pleaded for anonymity, confirmed Peter's arrest and detention. He said he was being held, pending the completion of investigation.

## Fasehun calls for community policing

By Emmanuel Oladesu, Deputy Political Editor

ODUA Peoples Congress (OPC) Founder, Dr. Fredrick Fasehun, yesterday called for an enquiry into the security vote spending by governors, alleging that they have converted the cash to their personal use.

He said budgeting high sums for security vote has increased corruption, adding that the money is not used for the provision of security.

Fasehun, who spoke on

nation to boost security in the neighbourhood.

Fasehun added: "Security is the duty of all. OPC is not a registered organisation and we will not make attempts to register it. We carry out our responsibilities as citizens living in the community. Many people are ready to assist with infor-

