



•Ezu River



•L-R: Governor Peter Obi's commissioners: Okoye, Lady Enemo, Ikeakor and Mrs. Enweluzor on inspection of Ezu River

Ezu river tragedy: 11 more bodies to be exhumed next week

ELEVEN more of the corpses recovered from Ezu River in Anambra State are expected to be exhumed for autopsy next week.

■ Nwanosike ONU, Awka ■

Seven others have already been exhumed for the same purpose.

The state Commissioner for Health, Dr Lawrence

Ikeakor, told *The Nation* yesterday that the corpses would be reburied somewhere else after the autopsy. The reburial away from the community is to remove

the psychological impact on the residents, he said.

Ikeakor said the second autopsy was carried out by the pathologists at the Anambra State University Teaching Hospital in Awka.

He said: "If you want to do anything scientifically acceptable, it has to be thorough, autopsy is a painstaking exercise that takes time."

Though no additional corpse has been found after the discovery of the four last week by the residents, the state Commissioner for Local Governments, Lady Azuka Enemo described it as pathetic and something to worry about.

KSM to conduct investiture for 200 knights

THE Lagos Metropolitan Council of the Order of the Knights of St Mulumba (KSM), Nigeria, is

hosting the investiture of Knights and Ladies into the third degree of the Order on Sunday 3rd February 2013.

About 200 men and women of the Order, having been found eligible for the elevation will formally assume the rank after ceremonies during Holy Mass on Sunday 3rd February, at Saints Philip's and James' Catholic Church Lekki, under the direction of the Metropolitan Grand Knight Sir Patrick Ikemefuna with Monsignor Professor Francis Ogunmodede, Dean of the Lekki deanery of the Lagos Archdiocese as the Chief Celebrant.

The Order of Knights of St Mulumba is a Catholic Action group of over 12,000 persons from each part of the 54 Catholic Dioceses in Nigeria and in Uganda and the Cameroons. It was founded in 1953 by the Catholic priest and monk, late Reverend Fr Abraham Ojefua, for the spiritual development of Catholic faithful and the cause of charity in action. They are agents of Hope, Faith and Charity. KSM is a member of the International Alliance of Catholic Knights with affiliations all over the world.

Court voids National Lottery Commission's powers to issue licence

■ Eric IKHILAE ■

AFederal High Court in Lagos has held that the National Lottery Regulatory Commission (NLRC), lacked the powers to issue lottery licenses to firms interested in lottery business in the country in view of an existing right in that regard granted to a firm - Secure Electronics Technology Plc.

Justice Okechukwu Okeke, in a judgment, nullified all lottery licences issued by NLRC since its establishment. The judge reaffirmed the exclusivity of the licence granted to Secure Electronics Technology Plc by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The judgment delivered on Thursday afternoon, was in a suit no FHC/L/CS/1258/2012 filed by Constant Shareholders Association of Nigeria, Shehu Malam Mikail, Oyetunde

Olaitan, Sosanwo Sinai and Sonibare Waheed against the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of the Federation, NLRC and Secure Electronic Technology Plc.

Justice Okeke held that according to the exclusive right granted to Secure Electronic President, FRN, Secure Electronic is entitled to exclusive rights on lottery licensing for 15 years beginning from December 19, 2001 (when it was granted) to December 18, 2016 (when it will expire) and entitled to renewal.

The judge granted an injunction restraining NLRC from continuing to grant licences to transact lottery business in Nigeria to any entity or person

until the expiration of the exclusivity period reserved to Secure Electronic by its licence dated December 19, 2001 deemed granted to it under Section 32 of the National Lotteries Act 2005 by the President, FRN.

"All licences issued by the National Lottery Regulatory Commission (NLRC) are invalid and nullified. The Commission is restrained from issuing licences to any other person," Justice Okeke said.

The action was instituted by Constant Shareholders Association of Nigeria and others against the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of the Federation, National Lottery Regulation Commission (NLRC) and Secure Electronic Technology Plc.

Police declare pensions boss Maina wanted

■ Gbade OGUNWALE, Assistant Editor, Abuja ■

THE Nigeria Police Force has declared the chair man of the Pensions Reform Task Team, Mr. Abdulsheed Maina wanted.

Maina has engaged a joint committee of the Senate investigating pension funds in a hide-and-seek since the investigation began last year, with the two parties trading accusations.

In a statement by Force Deputy Public Relations officer, Frank Mba, yesterday, the police authorities said Maina wanted for failure to appear before the Senate joint committee investigating disbursements of pension funds. The statement reads: "It will

be recalled that the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria had on 13th December, 2012, issued a Warrant of Arrest, mandating the Inspector-General of Police to arrest and produce Alhaji Maina before the Senate Joint Committee on the Investigation of Pension Fund.

"Since then, the subject has gone into hiding, making it difficult for the police to execute the warrant. Consequently, the Inspector-General of Police has directed all AIGs in-charge of Zonal Commands and State Commands,

Commissioners of Police to spread their dragnets to all nooks and crannies of their respective areas of jurisdiction, in search of Alhaji Maina.

"He has also directed all operatives of the Federal Intelligence Bureau (FIB), Force and State CID to join the manhunt.

"The IGP wishes to appeal to well-meaning citizens and the general public with useful information on the whereabouts of Alhaji Abdulsheed Maina, to kindly volunteer such information to the nearest police station, formations, or email policemonitor@nfp.gov.ng for necessary action."

Gunmen kill 2 in Gombe

UNIDENTIFIED gunmen on Friday shot dead two persons and injured a blind man in an attack in Hamadu Kafi area of Gombe township, Gombe State.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) gathered that one of those killed was a prison warder.

The injured blind man, popularly called Malam Ali, who was critically wounded in

the attack, is now receiving treatment.

A source said the killers arrived the house of the blind man in a black Honda Hala at about 3.20 pm and opened fire on the man who was chatting with one of his friends.

The friend died instantly.

The source said the prison officer, who was passing by the area, stopped to greet the blind

man and his friend when the gunmen shot him.

Contacted on phone, the Commissioner of Police in Gombe State, Mr Mohammed Sule, confirmed the incident.

He said an investigation had been launched to get to the root cause of the killings.

Sule said the blind man who was injured was at the hospital receiving treatment.

THIS SUNDAY

THE ROAD TO NOWHERE

An independent look at the state of the controversial East-West Road

INSIDE THE GOVERNORS' MAFIA

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—Former CPC National Chairman, Senator Rufai Hanga

JENNIFER ELIOGWU

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FEBRUARY 3, 2013