

BAKASSI: 5 BAYELSANS DIE IN CAMP

*From UCHENNA NWAFOR,
Yenagoa*

AT least five Bakassi returnees of Bayelsa state origin have lost their lives in Yenagoa where they are temporarily being camped as a result of hunger and starvation, even as an outbreak of epidemic may not be ruled out.

The returnees numbering about eight thousand who were transported from the oil rich Bakassi area are presently scattered at three different temporary camps in Yenagoa, the state

capital; namely: Saint Jude's Girls Secondary School, Sports complex and Women Affairs Hall.

When New Nigerian visited the camps last Tuesday, an ambulance from the state emergency service in the Ministry of Health was spotted conveying bodies of three of the victims at St. Jude's, while further checks revealed that two others had passed on in similar circumstances over the weekend.

Meanwhile, the state govern-

ment has promised to facilitate the process of re-settling and re-uniting the returnees with their families in order to integrate them into the society, saying they would receive a daily allowance of one thousand Naira per adult during their stay in the temporary camps.

One of the returnees at St Jude's Girl's Secondary School who identified himself as Andrew Emmanuel, aged 27, from Ekeremo Local Government Area told our reporter that

feeding is a major problem in the camp since they arrived the state, lamenting that government has not been able to cater for them adequately as promised.

Similarly, a 35 year old mother of three who gave her name as Stella Ombo lamented the absence of electricity in the camp, complaining of mosquito bites on her children all of whom she said have fallen sick. She explained that government promised to give them 1,000 Naira daily, but that it was only once they received the money, which is why some people have died; and called on the government to save the lives of her children.

Some officials of the state Emergency Services were however seen giving injections and other medical attention to some of the returnees, most of whom are women carrying their kids

on their backs along with other teens, but refuse to volunteer any information to our reporter.

Governor Jonathan who visited the camp last weekend had earlier charged the returnees to encourage their children and wards to go back to school as government was prepared to help them form co-operative societies and provide implements to the fishermen and women among them, while those employable would be given appointments.

The Governor also said government would immediately commence the building of transit camps to take care of such displaced people in the state, while urging the returnees to conduct themselves properly as well as to remain law abiding, pointing out that the state government is aware of their plight.

Educate Nigerians, Obasanjo tells NPC

*From HUSSAINI TUKUR,
Abuja*

PRESIDENT Olusegun Obasanjo has directed that all Nigerians should be given an opportunity to have an insight into the activities of the Na-

tional Population Commission (NPC).

The president gave the directive on Wednesday while speaking just after a brief by

the National Population Commission Chairman, Chief Samui'la Danko Makama, on the Post Enumeration Survey and on going data processing