



Alake of Egbaland Oba Adedotun Gbadebo, during a press conference and royal message to mark his first coronation anniversary celebration at Ake's Palace, Abeokata ...recently. Photo: SEGUN JOHN

Benin bomb blast: **Police yet to get clues**

From RALPH OKHIRIA,
Benin

FORTY-EIGHT hours after a powerful bomb blast which killed one person and destroyed several houses and cars in Benin City, the police are yet to get clues leading to the blast.

Police Zonal Area Commander and Assistant Commissioner of Police, Mr. Isaac Eke who spoke to

newsmen in Benin City, stated that the state police command was still working round the clock to unravel the circumstances leading to the incident.

He disclosed that the younger brother of the victim of the bomb blast, Mr. Barnabas Aigbeka, and owner of the house where the bomb exploded have been questioned by the po-

lice.

ACP Eke further disclosed that the matter has been taken over by the state CID, assuring that the police would do everything possible to get to the root of the blast as particles gathered at the scene of the bomb explosion were still being examined.

He called on residents of the state to continue to go

about their legitimate activities without fear, saying everything was under control.

Meanwhile, the Edo State House of Assembly has called on the security agencies in the State to be alive to their responsibilities by ensuring that lives and property of residents of the State are protected.

Reacting to the bomb explosion in Benin City the House, which expressed shock about the incident stressed the need for the act to be nipped in the bud as last Tuesday blast was the first of its kind in the State

Gombe ANPP treasurer killed

AN All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) treasurer in Gombe State Mr. Samaila Mamman, Gombe was murdered on Tuesday by some unknown assailants in his home town, Zambuk.

Mamman, who was also the former Gombe State Director of the National Orientation Agency (NOA), was macheted to death in his farmland in the outskirts of the town.

Mamman's uncle, Mr. Alamai Atuman, spoke on the gory incident in an interview with a correspondent of the News Agency of Nigeria.

He said that the deceased had left his house on that fateful day at about 11.30 a.m.

He explained that when by 8 p.m., Mamman had not returned, a search party went to his farm, "only to find his body with several machete cuts".

The uncle said that he suspected the killing had a politi-

cal undertone as the deceased had declared his intention to vie for the Yamaltu Deba West state assembly seat.

"In the past three days, he had been under pressure from some politicians to withdraw but he refused, so it is possible that they decided to silence him permanently," said Atuman.

The Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of Criminal Investigations Department, Gombe, Mr. Salisu Fage, confirmed the incident.

He said investigation into the killing had commenced and that only its outcome would determine whether or not, the murder was politically motivated.

Aged 60, late Mamman, who was the Gombe State Director of NOA from 1999 to 2001, left behind, one wife, eight children and several relations.