

Breakdown of the budget estimate included over head cost, which was put at N17,969,297,750; consolidated cost, amounting to N52,493,953,200, while the total recurrent expenditure was put at N97,608,280,660 and capital expenditure was N119,136,932,600.

The governor, however, implored the lawmakers to give accelerated hearing to the budget so that it can be passed into law in good time, just as he tasked the people of the state to give maximum support to his administration for the implementation of all his programmes for the state.

Responding, the Speaker of the House, Hon. Najeem Salaam, assured that the House would ensure speedy hearing on the bill, stressing that "we need patience and support to continue with Aregbesola's experimentation that is working for the state."

In a related development, Ondo State governor, Dr Olusegun Mimiko, on Tuesday, presented a budget of N162 billion for the 2014 fiscal year before the state House of Assembly.

The governor said the objective of the 2014 estimates was the consolidation of the modest gains achieved by his administration in the last five years.

Dare Emiola, on Tuesday.

3 kids die in midnight inferno in Warri

EBENEZER ADUROKIYA
- WARRI

NO fewer than three kids died in a midnight inferno on Monday night at Ovwian community in Delta State.

Reports say several others were seriously wounded in the fire incident.

Mother of the burnt kids went amok as sympathisers made frantic efforts to discourage her from harming herself.

Witnesses described the incident as first of its kind in recent times, saying it was caused by a generating set that caught fire inside the apartment where the kids were sleeping.

Nigerian Tribune gath-

ered that the inferno swept across the building and spread to neighboring houses before it was put out by fire fighters.

A witness said the fire caught them unawares in the midnight and devastated the building described as the biggest in the community.

The witness, who could only escape with his shirt and pair of trousers, related that "most of us ran out of the house to save our lives, but it was impossible for us to salvage any of our belongings. It was also impossible for us to save the three kids who were sleeping in one of the apartment."

Meanwhile, Nigerian Tribune reliably gathered that during the inferno, some hoodlums catch in on the confusion to begin to loot victims' property.

This is just as injured occupants were said to be unable to get medical help while the raging fire lasted.

The Delta police public relations officer, ASP Muka, could not be reached as at press time.

Court remands 2 for alleged attempted murder of Fayemi's aide

SAM NWAOKO - ADO EKITI

AN Ado Ekiti Chief Magistrates' court, on Tuesday, ordered the continued detention of Afolabi Oyediran and Oluwafemi Sunday in prison custody for allegedly plotting to murder the Senior Special Assistant to Governor Kayode Fayemi on Internal Security, Mr Deji Adesokan.

Oyediran and Sunday were arrested on December 20, 2013 at about 7.30pm at Irewolede Estate in Ado Ekiti, allegedly being in possession of a Barretta Pistol loaded with eight round of ammunition in Adesokan's home in the

estate.

They were arraigned on a two-count charge of conspiracy and illegal possession of firearms, punishable under sections 324 of the Criminal Code, Cap 16 Laws of Ekiti State and 3 (1) of the Robbery and Firearm Act, Cap R11, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

They pleaded not guilty to the charge but the Magistrate, Mr Simon Ojo, ordered that they be detained in prison until the next adjournment of their case.

Ojo, in giving the order, said given the alleged offences brought against the duo, they could pose serious security threat to the community, saying "granting

them bail at this stage might not be appropriate because the offences are serious and the issue of security can't be taken lightly."

Earlier, the prosecutor, Mr Olasunkanmi Bankole, had told the court that the police were not against bail for the accused persons, saying it was the 'exclusive prerogative' of the court to exercise such discretion.

Counsel for the accused persons, Mr Chris Omokhame, while arguing for bail, said "the two accused persons have no criminal records," saying "there are credible sureties to stand for them and we as lawyers will make sure they obey the court if granted bail."