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The memo, entitled; Re: Endorsement of Action Plan on the Deregulation of the Downstream Petroleum Sub-Sector, read; "I write with respect to the meeting held on 9 June, 2009 on the above subject matter, in which you were in attendance to formally convey to you a president's directive at the meeting that your ministry should oversee the implementation of the under-listed measures within the time-frame specified in the attached template commencing from July 2009;

"Eliminate existing subsidy on the consumption of kerosene, taking into account that subsidy payments by government on kerosene do not reach the intended beneficiaries.

Again, 22 villagers, one MOPOL killed in Zamfara village

By OLUWATOYIN MALIK

GUNMEN suspected to be cow rustlers, on Friday evening, invaded Tunga Rakunmi village in Maru Local Government Area of Zamfara State, killing 22 villagers and one mobile policeman.

In addition, about 22 houses and 37 motorcycles were razed by the cow rustlers who came in threes on motorcycles.

According to information gathered by *Sunday Tribune*, about 100 cow rustlers arrived at the village at about 6.30 p.m., armed with AK 47 rifles and Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPGs) and operated in the village

for about two hours.

The situation was reportedly made worse, due to lack of means of communication in the village which is about four hour-drive to the headquarters of the local government.

Aside the houses and motorcycles, food stuffs stored in barns for sale and consumption were reportedly destroyed after they were set on fire.

The cow rustlers were suspected to have mobilised themselves from Kaduna and Niger states and joined others in Zamfara on the revenge of the resistance put up by Tunga Rakunmi indigenes when the hoodlums invaded their village about

two months ago.

The villagers reportedly arose in self-defence and overpowered the cow rustlers, burning their motorcycles, while many of them escaped with bullet wounds.

Though it was learnt that about 10 mobile policemen posted to the area to prevent attacks by the cow rustlers fought hard by shooting at the invading hoodlums, the law enforcement agents were overwhelmed by their number and the sophisticated weapons they brought for the attack.

The villagers were said to have buried their dead according to Islamic rites, while the injured were still nursing their wounds.

The other week, we will go to Kano State. We may also go to other states, but the national committee is also working out our zone rallies.

"We want to go round the country, all the zones and to tell Nigerians that PDP is still the number one party. And we want to do this before we start election because from the middle of this year, people will begin to become aspirants, because PDP has not turned to anybody," he said.

In his address, Sambo commended Bafarawa for his bold initiative in joining the PDP with his large followers.

Senate President Mark called on those wishing to join the party to do so promptly in order not to be caught napping, saying that "the umbrella will soon be filled up; those wishing to join should better do so on time."

President Yar'Adua took ill and left the country in November 2009.

Sources confirmed that the administration of President Goodluck Jonathan did not pursue the planned removal of subsidy on kerosene and that the development informed the launching of N50 per litre kerosene sales across the country by the Ministry of Petroleum

"If the president had endorsed the removal of subsidy on kerosene, there would have been no basis for the launching of sale of kerosene at N50 across the country. The NNPC could not implement a verbal directive which did not get to its table in black and white," a source in the corporation said.