

1: ICPC tasks aspirants on corruption

preparedness to allow unfettered war against corruption.

As electioneering for the 2011 election becomes more active, following the release of the timetable by the Independent National Electoral Commission, the ICPC boss said that the people must be

vigilant.

The chairman said, "The pledges by those aspiring to political offices must be backed by religious leaders as moral guarantors for the fulfillment of the pledge.

"This requirement is needed for the transformation and behavioral change of the nation and its citizenry. Nothing

short of this can ensure the end of corruption in Nigeria.

"This is the season when lofty promises are made. People should know that any candidate who promise to tackle the ills of the society or develop our nation without a clear perception of how he intends to tackle corruption is either insincere or naive.

"Empty promises, sentiments and rhetoric will not help in the fight against corruption. We can only achieve much by commitment and collective action."

Unlike the practice in other parts of the world, Ayoola said it was now commonplace to find government institutions shielding information from the

public; even when such would be required to dispel suspicion or mistrust.

"When any arm of government becomes unaccountable and resent enquiries about how it exercises its power, it becomes a monster that holds the rest of the nation hostage," he said.

Four killed, many injured in Delta youths clash

Simon Utebor, Warri

NO fewer than four persons were feared killed and several others sustained injuries as rival youth groups clashed in Effurun, Uvwie Local Government Area of Delta State, on Wednesday.

Our correspondent gathered that trouble started on Tuesday when some suspected miscreants from Ekpan clashed with youths at the JJC area of the metropolis over leadership tussle.

An eyewitness, who craved anonymity, said the fracas was triggered by an attempt to bury the remains of one of the youths, identified simply as Abel, who was allegedly killed by some miscreants.

He said that a certain 'kingpin' on Airport Road area insisted the corpse must not be buried since his permission had not been sought.

This development, he told our correspondent, infuriate youths leader from JJC, who decided to invite some youths from Ekpan to attack the 'kingpin.'

He claimed, "It started about 10pm on Wednesday. When the Ekpan youths came, the situation changed. The Ekpan youths in collaboration with the JJC youths overpowered the youths from the Airport Road area and the

burial was carried out. However, this did not go down well with them as they decided to fight back. That was what threw the entire metropolis into pandemonium.

"I can say that more than four persons died. Many

Bauchi residents

A cross-section of residents of Bauchi metropolis have commended President Goodluck Jonathan for sacking the nation's security chiefs.

They said they were glad at the removal of the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Ogbonna Onovo, and Director-General of the State Security Service, Mr. Afarkirya Gadzama.

The residents told the *News Agency of Nigeria*, on Thursday, in Bauchi that the "sacking was long overdue in view of the failure by the various security establishments to tackle the embarrassing state of insecurity in the country."

Some of the residents, who preferred anonymity, advised that the exercise should also be extended to the state levels particularly in areas where there was evidence of insecurity.

Malam Zubairu Abdullahi, a resident of Illela area in Bauchi metropolis, urged the

people also sustained serious injuries. We did not see policemen during the fracas. So many people who were scampering to safety sustained injuries while running for their lives. It was such a black night. I will never forget it."

Bauchi residents laud Jonathan for removing Onovo

President to also do away with the various heads of security agencies in Bauchi State for 'negligence' over the recent invasion of Bauchi prison by suspected Boko Haram members.

"It is unimaginable that a group of untrained civilians could invade and sack a fortified and well secured prison for more than two hours without any security presence.

"The security personnel in the state had failed in their responsibility to protect lives and properties of innocent citizens," Abdullahi, fondly known as Barde Digama said.

He said that some of the

Another eyewitness, who identified himself as Charity, told our correspondent that the rival youths employed all sorts of dangerous weapons, including machetes, clubs, pump action rifles in the fracas.

Our correspondent

security personnel deployed in the area for normal security duties fled shortly before the attackers struck.

"They stormed the prison at about 6. 30pm in a saloon car with four occupants.

"They mounted their machine guns in four strategic areas close to the prison and asked traders around the premises of the prison not to panic.

"From what I witnessed, it is apparent that there was a clear evidence of negligence on the part of the security agencies in the state," Abdullahi said.

gathered that policemen did not come to the scene of the fracas, but only showed up after the situation had calmed down.

But the Divisional Police Officer, Ekpan police station, Mr. Mohammed Muazu, told our correspondent on the telephone that if the police did not intervene, the matter would have assumed a more dangerous dimension.

He confirmed that people were killed in the fracas but he did not clarify the exact number of persons who died during the confrontation.

Muazu promised that his division would take appropriate steps to ensure that those behind the fracas were apprehended and prosecuted accordingly.

Efforts to speak with the Police Public Relations Officer, Delta State Command, Mr. Charles Muka, were unsuccessful as his telephone line was switched off as at press time.

What entrepreneurs need to master

"Turning an idea into reality is a key step that all