

Federal doctors begin strike in Lagos

MEDICAL doctors in Federal Government-owned hospitals in Lagos State on Wednesday commenced a three-day solidarity strike in support of their colleagues who have engaged the state government in a wage war since August 14.

The public health sector in the state had been paralysed since the doctors in the employment of the Lagos State government embarked on the action to force their employer to implement the new salary scale granted the Nigerian Medical Association by the Federal Government.

But the state government had allegedly refused to negotiate with the doctors. This action, the doctors said, was a pointer to government's insensitivity to their plight and that of Lagosians.

The federal doctors, under the aegis of the Lagos Chapter of the NMA, said they decided to embark on the solidarity strike to force the government to accede to the demands of their colleagues in the employment of the state.

Guinea's stability crucial to regional peace — Jonathan

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan has said that the political stability of Guinea was crucial to the West African regional peace.

Jonathan, who is the current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States, called on parties in the Guinea's presidential elections to eschew violence as they go to the polls.

He said this in a statement signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Odien Ajumogobia, SAN, in Abuja, on Wednesday.

The President said Nigeria and indeed the entire ECOWAS member countries were watching developments in the country closely.

States yet to access N34.8bn UBEC funds

TWENTY nine out of

Gunmen kill another party chieftain in A'Ibom

Kazeem Ibrahim, Uyo

GUNMEN on Monday night shot dead a chieftain of the Peoples Democratic Party, Mr. Daniel Ekanem in Ibesikpo Asutan Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

The killing of Ekanem came exactly six months after unknown gunmen, suspected to be hired assassins, stormed Ebenezer Anglican Church in the same council area and shot dead a South-South Zonal Secretary of the PDP, Chief Paul Inyang.

Ekanem was a former chairman of the PDP in Ibesikpo Asutan local

•SSS parades Umanah, others over threat messages

government area under the administration of former Governor, Obong Victor Attah.

The deceased, who hailed from Nung Ukana, Ibesikpo Asutan local government area, was said to have received a call from a strange number at about 8:30pm on Monday night shortly before he walked out of his gate, apparently to meet his caller.

A family source, who preferred anonymity said, "It was when the PDP chieftain failed to come home when we were ready to go to bed and the gates were left open that the family released the dog in

the compound.

"It was in the early hours of the next day that a relation to the deceased's wife was called by passersby to come to a T-junction in the village to recover the remains of the politician."

The killing of Ekanem has brought to three the number of persons gunmen suspected to be hired assassins had mowed down in Ibesikpo Asutan local government area.

Before Inyang's death, a former lawmaker representing Ibesikpo Asutan local government area in the State House of Assembly, Obong

Umoh Udonwa, was also felled by the assassin's bullets.

When contacted, the State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Walter Rugbere, said that he was not aware of Ekanem's death.

Meanwhile, a prominent indigene of the state, Dr. Ime Umanah confessed on Wednesday that he instructed one Ikemesit Iyire to send text messages to Governor Godswill Akpabio, cautioning him on his public utterances.

Umanah, during his parade in Uyo by the State Security Service, denied asking Iyire to threaten Akpabio via text

messages that the governor would soon be killed by the Boko Haram sect.

The duo of Umanah and Iyire were paraded alongside other suspects, who were alleged to be in the habit of using text messages to threaten unsuspecting citizens.

Umanah explained that he could not have asked Iyire to send a threat message to the governor, adding that his relationship with the governor was cordial.

But Iyire said, "Dr. Ime Umanah said that I should send the text to the governor using a new sim card to do so. Chief didn't pay me anything and there was no agreement between both of us. Dr. Umanah was like a father to me."

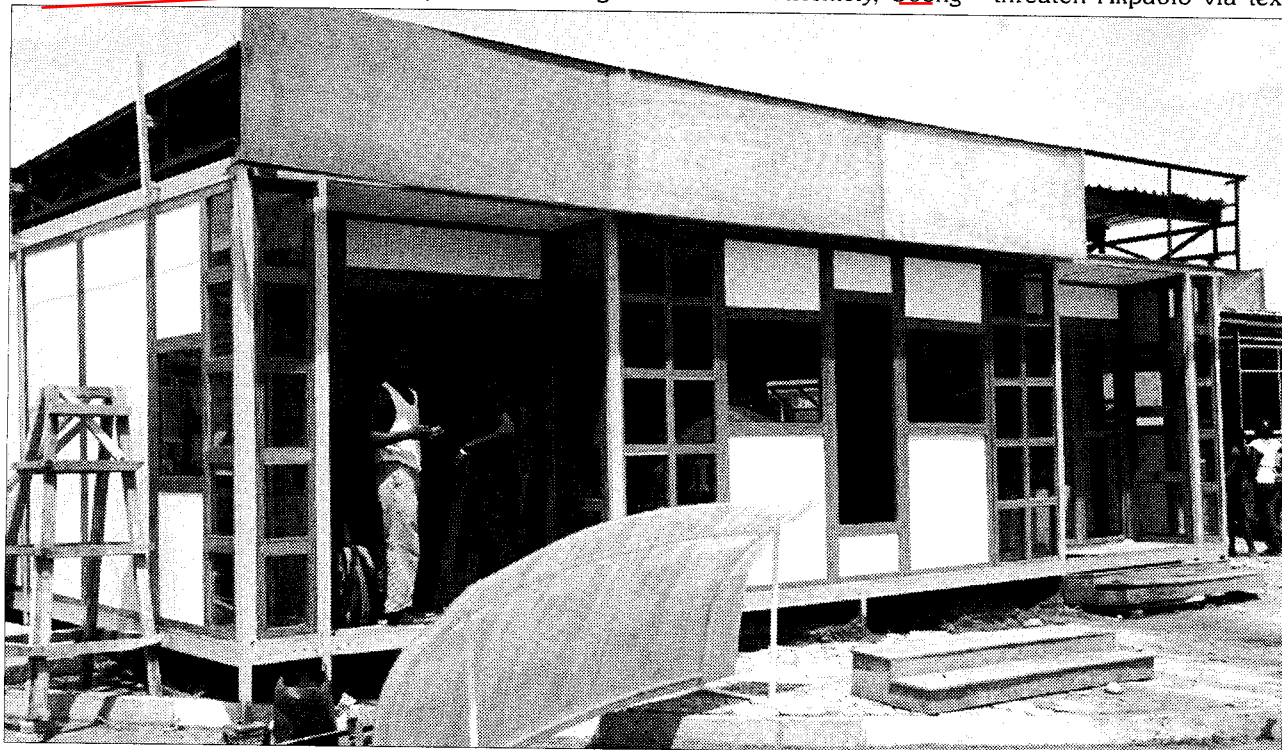
"Chief Umanah mentioned that the governor was making utterances that were not good as a leader. That the governor said on paper that no other presidential aspirant should come to Akwa Ibom to campaign and that was wrong."

When asked what the content of the text messages was, Iyire, who was a graduate of Physics from the University of Port Harcourt, claimed that he could not recall the content of the text messages he sent to the governor.

Umanah also claimed that he did not know the content of the text messages until the Akwa Ibom State Director of SSS, C.T. Minti, read the contents out.

The content of the text by Iyire read, "Our intelligence has confirmed that you (Akpabio) just bribed Okwesilieze Nwodo, the National Chairman of the PDP to manipulate election in your state and frustrate Northern aspirants. We know that you are Jonathan's chief financier."

"Your speech on his declaration and subsequent utterances is a confirmation of how well you hated the north. I hereby on behalf of the north and Boko Haram Islamic Sect declare our hatred for you and your household. Prepare your squad of kidnappers, you will soon hear from us."



•Exhibitors building their stands at the Lagos Trade Fair Complex, in Lagos...on Wednesday. Photo: NAN.

Reps reject motion to probe €63m TRACON project

John Ameh, Abuja

A motion to investigate the Total Radar Coverage of Nigeria failed at the House of Representatives on Wednesday.

President Goodluck Jonathan on October 18 inaugurated the €63m project, designed to ensure full coverage for all aircraft in the Nigerian air space and was considered a plus for air travel safety in the country.

The International Civil Aviation Organisation granted Nigeria Category I certification following the inauguration of

and considering the tragic experience the country had in the past that resulted in colossal loss of lives."

He alleged that there was no total radar coverage of the country, contrary to the claims of aviation ministry officials.

Ndume told the House that some pilots and industry workers had also confided in him that the project was not fully operational.

Following Ndume's

submission, the Speaker, Mr. Dimeji Bankole, who presided over the session, asked the Chairman of the Committee on Aviation, Mr. Bethel Amadi, to react to his colleague's allegations.

Amadi answered that he was "amazed" that the minority leader could draw his conclusions on the project based on speculations by industry workers.

"The TRACON project, which was started in 2003 has

been fully completed and commissioned in May 2010," he informed the House.

Amadi added that his committee monitored the implementation of the project, visiting sites in Lagos, Abuja and Port Harcourt.

After several contributions by other lawmakers, however, Bankole put the motion to probe the project to vote and the majority opposed it in a voice vote and it was thrown out.

Panic in Asaba as explosion rocks Delta guest house