

# CP admits death of four policemen in Kano

Mustapha Salihu, Kano

FOUR policemen and four suspected Boko Haram members have been killed in Kano since the beginning of the attacks by gunmen, suspected to be Boko Haram members.

Speaking on Sunday during the parade of 14 suspects arrested in connection with recent attacks on police personnel in the state, the Police Commissioner, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris, said the command had recovered items that linked the suspects to Boko Haram.

These objects, Idris said, included fabricated bombs, bomb-making objects, wires, gunpowder, some cassettes of sermons of the late Boko Haram leader, Mohammed Yusuf.

Gunmen had attacked and killed three Air Force men last Friday at the Nigerian Air Force Comprehensive Secondary School, Kwa located about 28 kilometres from Kano.

Idris said the police made the breakthrough due to tip-off by residents in the area where the suspects lived.

He said, "A total of 14 suspects have so far been arrested in the course of investigations in the incidences. Investigations have so far shown that all the suspects so far arrested or being declared wanted are non natives or non-indigenes of this state."

The commissioner said, "We received intelligence report from members of the community about some suspected characters at Unguwar Dabai, Rijiyar Zaki quarters, Kano.

"The police moved into the area and in one of the compound arrested a suspect named Yunusa Ahmed and when his compound was searched, the police recovered bomb detonating head explosives, wires, some chemicals, some audio cassettes of preaching of Mohammed Yusuf and some Arabic books."

He gave a breakdown of the discoveries in Mohammed Shaluarmi when his officers

raided his house on December 16, 2011 to include one empty gas cylinder, 19 bags of ammonium chemicals used for bomb making, two cartons containing Arabic books, one bag of iron scraps for making bombs, one black polythene bag containing items for bomb making, five bags containing substances for bomb making.

The CP also said when the house of Alhaji Kyari at

Gwammaja was searched, one live assembled bomb was recovered.

The police boss also recalled that on Friday one of its mobile police corporal was shot on his way to duty at NNDC quarters in Hoto, just as some policemen on check-point at Diga junction were equally attacked by unknown gunmen.

He said, "During the raid, one SPY (Special Constabulary)

assisting the command in stop and search was killed and one of our police corporal was shot and sustained gunshot injury. 24 expended ammunitions were recovered at the scene.

Similarly, he stressed that on the same day, the house of Mohammed Aliyu (Alias Hamza) of Darmanawa quarters was put under 24 surveillance and that the next day, the suspects mobilised

some members of his syndicate who drove in three vehicles and attacked policemen on surveillance duty from Zaria Road Police Division, and shot to death two of the policemen.

"Also shot to death is a policeman attached to Special Anti Robbery Squad who arrived timely for reinforcement while one other policeman was injured and now receiving treatment in the hospital."



•L-R: The Methodist Bishop of Uyo, Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Udofia; the Deputy Governor of Akwa Ibom State, Mr. Nsima Ekere; a former Deputy Governor of the state, Ambassador Etim Okpoyo; and the father of the Deputy Governor, Sir Gabriel Ekere, at 2011 Annual Convention of the Uyo Diocese of Methodist Church Nigeria ... on Sunday.

## Court frees Nigerian after 10 years without trial

Ade Adesomoju

A Lagos High Court in Alkeja has ordered the unconditional release of a citizen of the Republic of Niger, Mamman Keita, who has been in custody without arraignment for more than 10 years.

Justice Habeeb Abiru, in a judgment delivered on Friday, also ordered the Attorney-General of Lagos State and the Commissioner of Police of the state to pay him N7m as damages as well as tender a public apology to him.

Abiru said, "It is hereby declared that the continuous remand of the Applicant (Keita) in prison for a period over 10 years without proper arraignment and trial in a court

of competent jurisdiction is unlawful and unconstitutional and constitutes an unbridled violation of the applicant's fundamental rights to dignity of his person, personal liberty and freedom of movement.

"The applicant is awarded the sum of N7m damages against the respondents jointly and severally for the unlawful remand of the applicant in prison for a period of 10 years."

## Bayelsa gov candidates seek spiritual help

Mike Odiegwu, Yenagoa

CANDIDATES of various political parties for the 2012 governorship election in Bayelsa State have besieged churches and spiritual homes

for the same vision with him.

"Are they now spokesmen for the Yar'Adua family? Let them discuss issues that will help develop the state so as to help encourage the Governor on his resolve to fix the problems of the state, and stop their connivance with failed PDP members."

Erhahon in a statement had said, "Since the governor has started the revelation, he should go on to tell us more, particularly how he became governor."

Osifo during a press conference said, "If the governor's assertion is correct, he has succeeded in speaking ill of the late Yar'Adua, by portraying him to the public as a treacherous President."

seeking divine intervention on their political ambitions.

Our correspondent learnt that the fear of the unknown had driven politicians seeking to rule the state in 2012 to consult with notable prophets and pastors.

While the embattled Governor of the state, Chief Timipre Sylva, had visited Omega Fire Ministry in Benin, Edo State, others were said to have rushed to churches in Lagos including the Synagogue Church of all Nations.

Our correspondent gathered that the former Permanent Secretary in the Presidency and governorship candidate of the Change Advocacy Party, Dr. Imuro Kubor, had sought prayers from the General Overseer of the Synagogue, Pastor T.B. Joshua.

The rush for spiritual assistance was said to be part of the strategies adopted by the candidates to fortify themselves ahead of the battle

N7m as damages, Adetola-Kazeem had among other prayers granted by the court, asked that his client be compensated with N100m.

Abiru noted that the records of the court showed that the application was served on the two respondents – the Commissioner of Police of the Lagos State Command and the state's Attorney-General – but that neither of them filed any formal responses.

for the governorship position in the state.

But Kubor in his reaction to the development said there was nothing wrong in the moves by candidates for the election to seek spiritual assistance.

Describing it as a normal and welcome development, he said his connection with T.B. Joshua was divine and unbreakable.

Kubor said he became close to Joshua as a result of his membership of the church, admitting that he consulted the pastor to seek divine intervention into his ambition to lead the state.

Kubor said, "I am a member of the Synagogue Church and I should be able to have spiritual consultation with my overseer before stepping out into the race."

Kubor was a member of the PDP, but dumped the party to secure the ticket of the Action Congress of Nigeria for the 2011 governorship election.

## Briefly

### Proliferation of preachers

THE Grand Khadi, Sharia Court of Appeal, Kwara State, Justice Idrees Haroon, has said there is the need to check the proliferation of preachers in the state in order to maintain harmonious co-existence in the state.

He spoke during a prayer session in Ilorin on Sunday in honour of the Chief Imam of Ilorin, Sheikh Mohammad Bashar, who was recently awarded a national honour by President Goodluck Jonathan.

Haroon said the current religious crisis in the state might have been intensified by unchecked sentiments and outbursts of some people who masquerade as religious leaders.

### Police ban fireworks

THE Kwara State Police Command has warned residents of the state, especially parents and guardians, to prevail on their children or wards to desist from using fireworks during this festive period.

The command's Public Relations Officer, Mr. Ezekiel Dabo, in a statement on Sunday, said the ban on fireworks and explosives was still in force. He advised people, especially youngsters against the use of such prohibited materials, saying defaulters would be arrested and prosecuted.

He also warned the people, including Fulani herdsmen, against carrying dangerous weapons, saying culprits would also be prosecuted.

He assured the residents that the command had put in place adequate security measures for hitch free Christmas celebrations.

### Promote unity

THE Deputy Governor of Akwa Ibom State, Mr. Nsima Ekere, has called on the church to work for the unity of the state through constant prayers.

Ekere, who spoke at a thanksgiving service to mark the end of the 2011 Annual Convention of the Methodist Diocese of Uyo on Sunday, stressed that unity was necessary to ensure the continuous progress and development of the state.

This was contained in a statement by the Press Secretary to the Deputy Governor, Mr. Inemesi Ina, on Sunday.

Ekere urged the church to uphold the national and state leadership through prayers to enable the people to continue to enjoy democracy dividends.

The deputy governor reasoned that the church's prayers were needed for the country to overcome its current security challenges.

## CPC, others fault Oshiomhole on Yar'Adua

James Azania, Benin

MEMBERS of the Congress for Progressive Change, Labour Party and other opposition parties in Edo State on Sunday, criticised Governor Adams Oshiomhole over statements credited to him about his relationship with the late President Umaru Yar'Adua.

Oshiomhole was quoted as saying that the late President supported his eventual victory at the Court of Appeal.

The parties, in separate reactions described Oshiomhole's statements as an attempt to rubbish the image of the late President.

State chairman of the CPC, Mr. Godwin Erhahon, and Labour Party stalwart,

Isaiah Osifo, called on Oshiomhole to disclose other alleged agreements he entered into with the late President before he became governor of the state.

In a reaction, the state government accused members of the opposition parties of playing to the gallery, instead of "appreciating the import of Governor Oshiomhole's statements."

Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Peter Okhiria, said, "It's another mischief being sponsored by their PDP leaders. The governor was only explaining that the late President meant well for Nigeria and that despite the fact that he was a PDP member, he still accommodated other Nigerians who shared