



•L-R: Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Training, Mr. Marvel Akpoyibo; DIG, Administration, Mr. Suleiman Fakai; and Acting Inspector-General Of Police, Mohammed Abubakar, at the inauguration of Directors of Police Foka Savings and Loans Mortgage Bank in Abuja... on Wednesday. Photo: Nan

How police killed retiring FRSC

Mike Odiegwu, Yenagosa

THE Bayelsa State Command of the Federal Road Safety Corps was on Wednesday thrown into grief after its official, Mr. Bassey Inoyo, was allegedly tortured to death by policemen.

It was learnt that Inoyo, a senior FRSC official, was due to proceed on retirement leave in November.

An eyewitness told our correspondent that trouble started on Tuesday morning when a police officer from Special Anti-Robbery Squad Unit felt aggrieved over the conduct of a road safety official.

He said, "The road safety official who is serving in Sagbama Local Government Area of the state was blocked by a car. He was waiting for the car to be driven out before driving in. In the process, he temporarily blocked the narrow road.

"But the police officer who was in mufti hooted his horn many times signaling the road safety officer to clear the road for him to pass. Eventually, the road safety man drove in and parked but already the police officer

in mufti was aggrieved. He came down from his vehicle and descended on the road safety official."

The source alleged that the policeman tore the FRSC official's rank and his uniform and then engaged him in a fight.

Some road safety officials were said to have rushed to the scene to assist their colleagues and in the process, the policeman, who drove in a private car, was injured.

Our source, who pleaded anonymity, said, "The police officer phoned his office and complained that road safety officials were about to kill him.

"About eight SARS operatives went to the road safety office with guns and were shooting as if there was a civil war. They were also beating everybody they saw there to the extent that road safety men started pulling off their uniforms and running away. They fired teargas too."

The source added that Inoyo an elderly man, was apprehended by the

policemen.

"The elderly man, the one that died today, could not run like others. They beat him until he fell down. They were stepping on his head with their boots. The head, the nose, the mouth, were all bleeding.

"They were beating him with the butt of the gun. When he fell down, they were dragging him on the ground like an animal SARS office. He died this morning. This is the height of callousness. I have never seen this type of thing before. This was an

eyesore. The man they killed is due for retirement. He was supposed to retire February next year," he said.

A source said the Commissioner of Police, Chris Olakpe visited the office of the road safety and held a meeting with the sector commander.

When contacted, Olakpe, said the matter which occurred barely a month after the case of a prisons inspector, allegedly killed by policemen had been resolved amicably between the two sister agencies.

official in Bayelsa

Minutes approving N787m UBEC contract fabricated - EFCC

John Alechenu with agency report

ECONOMIC and Financial Crimes Commission on Wednesday at the Federal High Court, Abuja, closed its case against UBEC officials and contractors for an alleged N787m fraud in contract award.

EFCC's counsel, Wahab Shittu, closed the case for the prosecution after Mr.

Usman Tahir, a prosecution witness, concluded his evidence.

During cross examination, Tahir, a police investigator attached to the EFCC, said the minutes of the 5th board meeting which approved the contract was fabricated.

The witness had told the court on May 15 that the contract awarded by UBEC to an American company "was against the rules."

The prosecution witness further explained that the contract was discussed at the 5th Governing Board Meeting of the Universal Basic Education Commission based on misrepresentation.

The *News Agency of Nigeria* reports that the anti-graft body is prosecuting four UBEC directors, an American contractor, Inter-market USA LLC and Inter-market Nigeria.

The accused persons are Molkat Mutfwang, Michael Aule, Andrew Ekpunobi, Alexander Cozma and Prof. Bridget Sokan,

than 23,747 people for HIV and found 3,780 positive, the hospital's Administrator, Mary Okoro, has said.

Okoro also told the *News Agency of Nigeria* in Abuja on Wednesday that 588 children delivered by HIV-positive mothers were born HIV negative.

She said the babies were negative because the mothers were on the prevention from mother to child transmission of HIV treatment regime.

According to her, in the hospital, HIV treatment is free.

Okoro said an average of 100 to 200 HIV positive persons usually attended the clinic everyday and were also provided with anti-retroviral drugs free.

She said, "The hospital has a comprehensive counselling and testing centre, which includes viral load test.

"Only Ola Hospital in Nyanya has the same equipment in the whole of the FCT and this is the reason why persons living with HIV are always referred to us."

She said the hospital received support from the Catholic Relief Services in the US and not from the government as it is a non-governmental organisation.

Senate approves increase of FHC judge to 100

Oluwole Josiah, Abuja

THE Senate on Wednesday increased the number of Federal High Court judges from 70 to 100.

It also received the report of its Joint Committees on National Security and Intelligence, Defence and Army and Foreign Affairs on the investigation of the failed effort to rescue the abducted British and Italian nationals.

The report will be considered at a future date by the Senate.

The increase in the number of judges followed an amendment to the Federal High Court Act of 2005.

Although the bill proposed an increase to 100, the committee made a separate recommendation for 120.

The proposal was rejected by the Senate on the grounds that the proposal was for 100 as recommended by the court.

President of the Senate, David Mark, said the Senate would be available for further amendments should

there be a request for an increase.

While some senators felt that the number should be 120, majority believed that there could be an abuse should the number be raised above the present 100.

In his report, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Legal Matters, Umar Dahiru, explained that the FHC at the moment had 34 Divisions spread across the country and the FCT. Two new divisions were created for Kebbi and Taraba.

They were said to have deceived UBEC into awarding the contract to Inter-market, USA LLC and Alex Cozma.

About N636m was said to have been paid.

Earlier, Justice Abdul Kafarati, had held that the EFCC had established a case against the accused persons.

The judge adjourned the case till June 27.

Meanwhile, the Universal Basic Education Commission is partnering the British Council to scale up teachers' training in Nigeria.

Executive Secretary of UBEC, Dr. Ahmed Modibbo said this on Wednesday while receiving an Interim Summary Report of the Evaluation of the Teaching Knowledge Test Essentials Methodology undertaken by the British Council.

Modibbo however said State Universal Basic Education Boards needed to be carried along, since they also have a role to play in scaling the programme.