

said the processes leading to Africa and in Nigeria followed who stood up against it, was

Three killed, 16 wounded in Plateau church attack

Jude Owuamanam, Jos

THE peaceful atmosphere that pervaded the Christmas celebration in Plateau State was shattered on Wednesday when two persons were reportedly killed while 16 others were wounded when a group of gunmen invaded the Church of Christ in Nations on the eve of the New Year at Maiakworigold Maikatako village in Bokkos Local Government Council of Plateau State.

One other person was said to have been killed in Manguna area of Bokkos Local Government of the state in the early hours of Wednesday.

The gunmen, suspected to be Fulani herdsmen, were said to have stormed the COCIN Church Maiakworigold Maikatako and started shooting sporadically. The two people were killed on the spot while the 16 people sustained various degrees of injuries in the ensuing stampede.

The third victim in Manguna area of the same local council area was said to have been killed by the retreating gunmen.

One of the eyewitnesses, Mr. Augustine Bim, told newsmen that during the service to usher in the New Year, some gunmen stormed the church and started to shoot at different directions.

He said that the casualties were recorded when the worshippers started escaping through various directions.

Speaker, Plateau State House of Assembly, Mr. Titus Alams, who confirmed the incident, described it as unfortunate.

Alams, who is the member representing Bokkos State constituency, said that five of the victims were currently on admission at the Plateau State Specialist Hospital.

He said they were in a stable condition while 11 people were receiving treatment at Barkin Ladi General Hospital.

While commending the security operatives for their

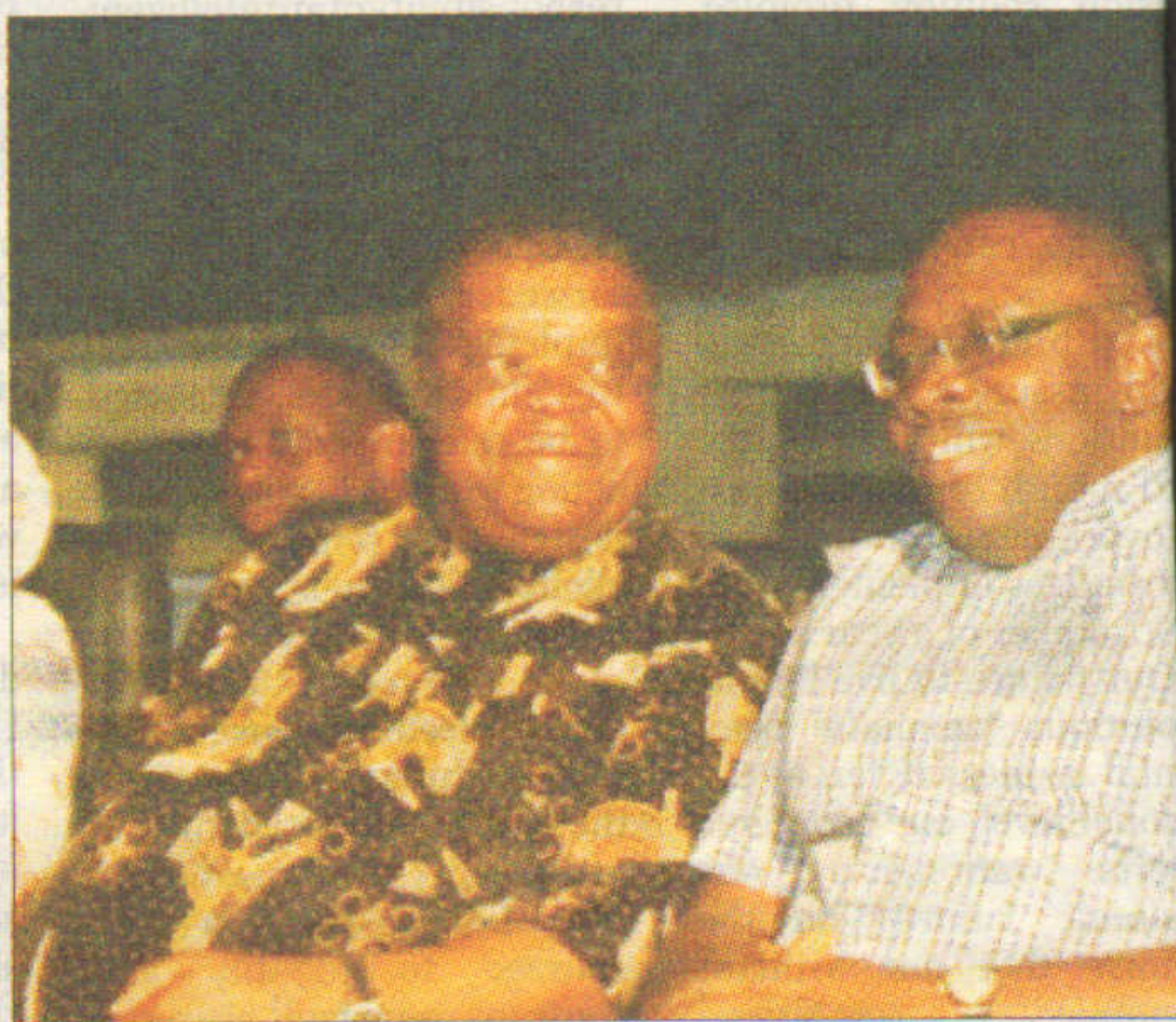
prompt response, he also urged them to do everything possible to fish out the perpetrators of this act.

He said, "This latest incident is regrettable because we have been doing a lot to sustain the current peace we are enjoying in the state. We are appealing to security agents to do everything in their power to fish out those responsible for this heinous crime against humanity."

Alams appealed to the

youths of Bokkos to remain calm and not to take the law into their own hands. He also urged them to report any suspicious movement to law enforcement agents in their area.

While reiterating the importance of safeguarding themselves against further attacks, the Speaker urged the people to avoid making themselves vulnerable to attack by congregating in large numbers at any point at night.



•L-R: Renowned Evangelist, Umah Ukpai; Bayelsa State Governor, Abba Gada; the 2014 cross-over night service at Toru-Orua community in Wednesday. Photo: Bayelsa State Government House.

Senate leader supports

Mudiaga Affe, Calabar

SENATE Leader, Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba, says devolution of powers between the federal and the states governments would ensure rapid development of the country.

Ndoma-Egba, representing Cross River Central Senatorial zone on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party, said this on Wednesday in Calabar during an interaction with journalists.

He said that the long years of military rule had

foisted on Nigeria a unitary system with a strong Federal Government and weakened federating units.

He said, "I believe there should be devolution of powers. With long years of military rule, powers were over-centralised. So, I support a stronger federating units and a less strong centre. We must give more powers to the federating units."

The senate leader said that the present administration was doing its best to address various