

news

FORMER Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Abubakar Tsav, on Thursday told the National Human Rights Commission's investigators that the CP in charge of the Benue State command, Mr. A. Adams, was working for criminals, hence the spate of extra-judicial killings in the state.

Tsav said this while defending a petition dated December 10, 2013, which he wrote to the NHRC against Adams and his men in the Benue command, accusing them of perpetrating extra-judicial killings.

The ex-Lagos CP said, "The police in Gboko are either inefficient, cowards or are hands-in-gloves with criminals, who parade themselves as politicians.

"The practice in most police stations now is that once a person is arrested and released on bail, the case is forgotten, unlike during our days when we followed each case to its logical conclusion.

"A situation where policemen go out to kill people at the instance of criminals, like hunters kill wild animals in the bush, is condemnable.

"It is my view that the CP is weak and Yandev Amaabai might have over-riding influence over him.

"The CP is definitely weak. I say this with all sense of sincerity, honesty and responsibility."

Yandev Amaabai is the man Tsav said was the leader of criminal elements in the state.

The former CP insisted on the accuracy of the facts in his petition.

He cited the cases involving one Terna Manger, Terwase Terkura and Tersoo Peter Aper, who were allegedly murdered by officers of the Anti-Robbery Squad in Gboko, to illustrate his claim that the police was guilty of extra-judicial killings.

He said the police were not ready to apprehend those behind the killings, alleging that his telephone conversations with Adams were relayed to some criminal elements against whom he had made complaints.

Noting that a similar case of

Benue police working for criminals, Tsav alleges

Ihuoma Chiedozie, Abuja

extra-judicial killing involving the late leader of the Boko Haram sect, Mohammed Yusuf, contributed to the current violence in parts of the country, Tsav urged the NHRC to investigate his claims and ensure that those behind the killings in Benue were prosecuted.

The respondents, including the Benue CP, who was represented at the parley, denied Tsav's allegations.

Speaking through their lawyer, Mr. Harold Samuel Tumba, they told the NHRC's investigative panel that they were innocent of the allegations brought against them by Tsav.

Tumba told the panel that

the respondents were at the Commission to clear the air.

Chief Public Affairs Officer of the NHRC, Fatimah Agwai Mohammed, informed journalists that, following the interrogation of both parties, the Commission might decide to hold a public hearing to get further information on the matter.

"The NHRC has already

commenced investigations, and in line with the rules, there is a need to hear both parties to get their sides of the story before the Commission decides whether to hold a public hearing or not.

"The outcome of the interrogations will determine whether the Commission will hold a public hearing," she said.



• L-R: National Chairman, Peoples Democratic Party, Alhaji Bamanga Tukur; Vice President Namadi Sambo; President Goodluck Jonathan; former PDP Chairman, Dr. Bello Mohammed; and Kebbi State Governor Saidu Dakingari, during the North-West solidarity visit to the President, in Abuja... on Thursday. Photo: NAN

Faulty federalism causes dependency on oil -Gbajabiamila

Ade Adesomoju

MINORITY Leader in the House of Representatives, Mr. Femi Gbajabiamila, said on Thursday that Nigeria's over-dependency on oil was caused by the fault in its federal system.

Gbajabiamila said Nigeria in reality was still running a unitary system of government, which he said was the reason why its only source of revenue was oil.

"There is a relationship between the structure of government and our revenue base. We are still practicing unitary system,

because in unitary system, we have only one source of income which is petroleum," he said.

He spoke in Lagos at the 2nd Anniversary and Annual Lecture organised by 'January 9 Collective.'

JC9 is a group of young professionals, whose focus is to uphold accountable, open and good governance in the country. It derived its name and aim from the 2012 mass protests against removal of fuel subsidy, which commenced on January 9, 2012.

The event, with the theme, 'Nigeria, beyond petrodollar - A realistic

perspective,' was attended by professionals from the media, entertainment, politics and ICT, among others.

Gbajabiamila, who delivered the keynote address, said true fiscal federalism would enable the different federating units to be autonomous and by so doing enable them to explore other sources of revenue.

He added that the excuse of the Federal Government about its inability to finance the budget because of oil theft was the more reason why over-reliance on oil portended great danger for the nation in future.

The lawmaker, who described the oil benchmark system adopted in the budgets as illegal

did not remember if any proposal came from that ministry official, I think in many cases we have added to that proposal because we understand that the problems and the need to broaden our revenue base in Nigeria," he said.

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Aminu Tambuwal, who was said to be on a trip to France, was originally scheduled to deliver the keynote address.

Gbajabiamila's position was supported by broadcaster and activist, Funmi Iyanda, who called for a return to true federalism, under which each region strived to develop and generate its revenue from various non-oil sectors.

One of the guest

PDP prays for Jonathan's victory in 2015

Olusola Fabiyi, Abuja

HAS the Peoples Democratic Party resolved that President Goodluck Jonathan will be its presidential candidate for the 2015 election?

Probably, given the prayer the PDP offered for the President on Thursday. It asked God to allow Jonathan to win the 2015 poll.

"We pray to you God, to help our President win the election and come out tops in 2015 in Jesus name.

"Father, we pray that the crisis in the party would stop and that the President would lead us well in the name of God," so prayed the PDP National Secretary, Prof. Wale Oladipo, at the inauguration of the Kwara state executive caretaker committee of the party.

At the event were the National Chairman of the PDP, Bamanga Tukur; and other members of the National Working Committee, who all chorused loud "AMEN" to the prayer.

Other members of the NWC who chorused their agreement to Jonathan's victory in 2015 were the party's National Organising Secretary, Alhaji Abubakar Mustapha; National Publicity Secretary, Chief Olisa Metuh; and the National Treasurer, Alhaji Adewole Adeyanju.

An aide of one of the NWC members, who sat close to our correspondent, wondered whether the prayer was an indication that there would not be any presidential primary in the party.

"With this prayer and the 'amen' that followed, maybe the party has foreclosed the idea of holding any presidential primary to choose its presidential candidate," he said.

Meanwhile, Tukur has said that the party is not

Journalists to boycott STF activities in Plateau

the previous situation have resolved as