

3 DPR begins probe as Rivers gas explosion kills one

Dennis Naku, Port Harcourt

THE Department of Petroleum Resources has launched an investigation into the explosion that occurred at a gas refilling station in Rumuodomaya, Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State on Saturday in which one person was feared dead and several others injured.

The DPR said its officials were at the scene of the incident and had commenced investigation to unravel the cause of the explosion.

The Zonal Controller of the DPR, Port Harcourt Zonal office, Bassey Nkanga, confirmed the incident, and said, "We are there at the site. We are investigating the incident."

Our correspondent gathered that three transport cylinders outside the

gas station were slightly burnt, while three trucks inside the facility were burnt beyond recognition as a result of the explosion.

Some residents said over five persons suffered severe burns and were rushed to hospital, even as they attributed the casualty rate to the inability of the fire service to respond to distress calls and extinguish the fire.

One of the residents, who said he

works at a nearby company, told our correspondent that a security guard attached to the gas station was among the injured victims.

"Musa is among the injured. We call him our papa. He is still in hospital. The people in hospital said they don't know if he will survive. Innocent, another victim, is also in the same hospital now. Musa is a security guard. He has been there at Andro

Gas for a long time. He is from Taraba State," the resident stated.

An eyewitness said many people fled after the explosion, adding that some residents later summoned the courage to go close to the scene when firefighters were not forthcoming.

He also queried why such a gas facility should be cited in a residential area.

The eyewitness said, "I don't think all these companies are supposed to be close to living homes. We are not talking of money, we are talking of lives.

"We just tried our best to extinguish the fire. Nobody came here. It was only the police that were trying to protect people and the property by blocking the roads so that cars would not drive in the area. You know they are carrying fuel."

The incident which occurred about 8.45pm threw residents into panic. „

4 Taraba LG boss abducted by gunmen found dead

Justin Tyopuusu, Jalingo

THE Chairman of the Ardo-Kola Local Government Council in Taraba State, Salihu Dovo, has been killed by his abductors.

Dovo was kidnapped by gunmen at his Jalingo residence in the early hours of Sunday.

Barely six hours after his abduction, the kidnappers called an official of the

local government to announce Dovo's killing.

A family source told our correspondent that the gunmen called an official of the council to inform him of the killing of the chairman.

The source said, "They called an official of the council to go and search for the chairman's corpse in the bush.

"Immediately, members of the community went into the bush and



• Dovo

started looking for his body, which was found close to the river."

The state Police Public Relations

Officer, ASP David Misal, who confirmed the killing of the council chairman, said armed men stormed his residence at Sabon Gari area of the state capital around 1am on Sunday and took him away.

Misal said the gunmen dragged Dovo to the River Lamurde, where they killed him and later call that the relatives should go and look for his body in the bush around the area.