

Blood flows in Kaduna, Plateau again

• Village head, 14 others killed in Kaduna, scores in Plateau

From **Noah Ebije**, Kaduna and **Gyang Bere**, Jos

A newly installed community leader in Kaduna was killed in the early hours of yesterday by gunmen.

The community leader, Isaku Madaki, was murdered in his residence, at Kakura, in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

Kakura, a community predominantly inhabited by the Gbagi tribe, has other tribes with few Fulani settlers who have lived together for decades.

However, it was gathered that 14 other people were killed following alleged reprisals on the neighbouring settlement by aggrieved natives.

A resident of the area, Baban David, disclosed that the deceased was, on Saturday, installed as the Head of the community.

"We all gathered in his residence earlier in the day (Saturday) to rejoice with him over his appointment. However, we were shocked when in the early hours of today (Sunday), we began to hear gunshots.

"We were afraid we could not come out of our houses. Later we were told that the gunmen had killed the community leader in the presence of his wife and family.

"We found his dead body lying on the ground. His wife told us the gunmen broke into their residence and shot him. They did not take anything, neither did they abduct anybody.

Another resident, Mallam Buhari, explained that early in the morning, the natives surrounded their settlement and asked them to leave, accusing them of hypocrisy.

He noted that while they were leaving, they were attacked and some of them killed, adding, "on our way out to the village, we counted four corpses. Later on the bush path, there were bodies of 10 others littered on the ground."

At the time of filing the report, police were said to have deployed officers and men to the community to ensure law

and order.

It was gathered that even though normalcy had returned to the embattled settlement, most people have deserted the area for fear of the unknown.

The police and the state government were yet to react to the incident at the time of filing this report.

Meanwhile, suspected bandits, yesterday afternoon, in-

vaded villages in Kanam Local Government Area of Plateau State, where several people were killed and houses and foodstuffs burnt with other valuables.

It was gathered that the gunmen, in several numbers, ransacked the villages and shot several people, while others were inflicted gunshot injuries.

A resident of the affected villages, who gave his name as Ali, confirmed that the bandits attacked Kukawa, Gyanbata, Dungur and Keram villages where scores of people were killed.

Another eyewitness, Adam Musa, a resident of Kukawa village, said the incident occurred at about 15:04pm and that many were injured, while hundreds of people fled their homes.

(Continued on www.sunnewsonline)

NDLEA intercepts 101 cocaine parcels in children's duvets at Lagos airport

From **Godwin Tsa**, Abuja

OPERATIVES of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) have intercepted no less than 101 parcels of cocaine concealed in eight children's duvets at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA), Ikeja, Lagos.

The agency disclosed that

the illicit drug was brought into the country by a 52-year-old Brazilian returnee, Akudirinwa Hilary Uchenna, who hails from Oru East Local Government Area of Imo State.

A statement released by the Director of Media and Advocacy, Femi Babafemi, yesterday, said Uchenna was arrested on Saturday, at the D-Arrival Hall

of the Lagos airport upon his return from Sao Paulo, Brazil, via Doha, aboard Qatar Airline flight, while the 101 parcels of the class A drug, with a gross weight of 13.2 kilogram, were recovered from his only check-in bag.

During a preliminary interview, Uchenna, who claimed to be a carpenter, confessed that

he was to be paid N5 million for trafficking the drug after successfully delivering the consignment in Lagos.

In a related development, big pellets of skunk concealed in detergent containers have been intercepted at the Akamu Ibiam International Airport (AIIA), Enugu.

A 37-year-old South African returnee, Ezekwesili Afamefune, brought in the consignment weighing 730grams aboard Ethiopian Airline flight from Johannesburg, South Africa, via Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Ezekwesili is from Awka south local government area of Anambra state.

In Edo state, a 24-year-old drug dealer, Christian John, was arrested by NDLEA operatives in Egbeta, Ovia North East LGA, for selling assorted illicit drugs which include sachets of drugged Milo beverage, cannabis sativa, swinol and tramadol tablets, while in Zamfara state, one Chibuzor Uba, 30, was arrested last Friday with 1,955 ampules of pentazocine at Kaura Namoda area of Zamfara state.

A cross-border drug trafficker, Stanley Chibuzor, 21, was, last Friday, arrested by officers of the Marine Unit of NDLEA stationed at Oron beach, Oron, Akwa Ibom state.

(Continued on www.sunnewsonline)

New Electoral Act: Appeal Court gives PDP nod to challenge judgment

From **Godwin Tsa**, Abuja.

THE legal battle over section 84(12) of the new Electoral Act has taken another dimension with the order of the Court of Appeal, directing the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) and others not to frustrate the hearing in an appeal filed against judgment of a Federal High Court on the subject matter.

Meanwhile, the appellate court sitting in Owerri division has given the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) the permission to join in the legal battle as an interested party.

The appeal is challenging the judgment of the Umuahia division of the Federal High Court voided and struck down section 84 (12) from the Act.

In an enrol order of the Court of Appeal signed by the

Presiding Justice of the court, Justice Rita Noshakhare Pemu, the leave granted PDP to file an appeal was occasioned by submissions by its counsel, D.C Denwigwe, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN).

The appeal marked CA/OW/87/2022 has Chief Nduka Edede and the AGF as the first and second respondents, respectively.

The enrol order read in part: "Upon reading the application herein filed on 23-3-2022 with an affidavit in support sworn to by John Eronini on the same date, and after hearing DC Denwigwe SAN for the applicant and Chief Emeka Ozoani SAN for the first respondent, order is hereby granted as follows;

"Leave is, hereby, granted to the applicant (PDP) to appeal

as a person interested in this appeal CA/OW/87/2022.

"Due to the exigencies of this appeal and its Constitutional colourisation, there is a need to hear this matter expeditiously.

"Accordingly, the Appellant is, hereby, given up to Tuesday, 12th of April, 2022, to file its notice of appeal, and the parties are to file their respective briefs of arguments within three days from the date of service of the notice and record of appeal on the respondents.

"There shall be a further three days given to the appellant to file a reply. Parties should desist from taking any step to frustrate the hearing of the appeal.

"The matter is adjourned to May 4, 2022 for the hearing of the appeal.