

Three Bakassi Returnees Die, Jonathan Visits Camp

Death over the weekend visited the temporary camp of the over 3000 Bayelsan returnees from Bakassi, when three of them were found in the morning of Saturday in Yenagoa.

The death sent shock waves through camps as the returnees

BAYELSA

*From Segun James
in Yenagoa*

decided to embark on a protest match through the streets of Yenagoa over the way govern-

ment had abandoned them since they return from Bakassi.

However, the State Governor, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan on Sunday paid an unscheduled visit to the camp to see things for himself.

Moved by the pathetic situation, Jonathan announced a

daily upkeep allowance of N1,000 per adult

from the state government, in order to ameliorate the plight of the returnees.

Jonathan also disclosed that the state government will help the people, most of whom had never visited Bayelsa since

they were born to re-unite with their relations.

THISDAY gathered that the returnees were abandoned by government officials soon after they were sent packing from Bakassi by the Federal Government over a week ago.

Jonathan told the returnees that the state government has plans to re-settle and properly integrate to their roots.

He said since the people are mainly fisherfolks, government will provide them with fishing implements to enable them return to the profession they are accustomed to.

He told them allow their children and wards to return to

school, while the gifted ones among them will be admitted into the

proposed School for Gifted and Talented Children at the state government's expense.

Also speaking on the occasion, the Secretary to the Bayelsa State Government, Dr. Boladei Igali, assured the returnees that government would do everything possible to ease their pains, while at the temporary camps.

Speaking on behalf of the returnees at their Yenagoa Sport Complex's camp, Mr. Emmanuel Bulouzimune, appealed to the state government to provide shelter for them.

Solid Minerals: FG Woos Foreign Investors

Dissatisfied with the level of participation of foreign companies in the recent sale of solid mineral assets, Federal Government is making frantic efforts to woo some big names in the mining industry to show interest in the country's privatization programme.

Minister of Solid Minerals Development, Professor Idris

FCT

*From Onyebuchi Ezigbo
in Abuja*

form of interface with the prospective investors would no doubt yield positive dividend", she said.

National Council on Privatization (NCP).

Among the foreign firms which took part in the last stages of the financial bids are the Chinese mineral exploration consortium, COGC/Sinopec, Central Asia Gold and Dome Minerals, a subsidiary of Dome Ventures of Canada.

exercise for

adhering strictly to the due process systems", she said.

An earlier effort to reach out to them, trying to highlight the state of developments in the country's solid minerals sector had received universal applause and encouragement.

Sarakki Identi