

# State of the States

## Controversy Trails Death of 4 Youths

**C**ontroversy is trailing the death of four youths in Mararaba, Nasarawa State, as the Police and families of the deceased are trading words over the actual cause of death.

While the Police are alleging that the youngsters were suspected armed robbers mobbed by an irate crowd, the families are saying they were going about their lawful duty before they were shot by the Police, following misunderstanding with a neighbour.

Confirming the incident, Force Public Relations Officer (FPRO), Mr Akpoebi Akperemi, said the incident, which happened in Kabaji, Mararaba last

**FCT**

*From Funmi Peter-Omale  
in Abuja*

Saturday, is being treated by the Police as double murder cases, because another group, in retaliation, also organised themselves and attacked chairman of a vigilante group.

"Policemen on patrol duty were called in after a vigilante group raised alarm shouting barawo and people came out, mobbed and attacked the boys. Unfortunately, before the Policemen could rescue the

boys, they had been seriously wounded."

He said the Policemen were only able to retrieve bodies of the boys and took them to the station before taking them to the hospital.

## ECOWAS: NEPAD'll Promote Integration in Africa

**N**ew Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) Business Group, will stimulate promotion of trade among ECOWAS member states and enhance poverty eradication in the region.

President of the Economic

According to Akperemi, family of the deceased who apparently witnessed the mobbing also mobilised themselves and killed chairman of the vigilante group.

"So the police have two separate murder cases to resolve. The boys were attacked by an angry

mob ostensibly because they believed they were armed robbers, while the vigilante chairman was also attacked by unknown persons in a reprisal attack. The case has been transferred to the CID, Lafia and investigations are still going on.

Until investigations are concluded and autopsy carried out, the Police can not release the bodies."

However, Spokesman of the families, Honourable Godfrey Gaya, said the Police is economical with the truth.

**FCT**

*From Damilola Oyedele*

*in Abuja*

Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission

heads of member states.

The collaboration, he added, would help the West African sub-region surmount the challenges of poverty and youth unemployment, consolidate peace and regional stability and

created to attract investors from the West African sub-region.

He advised that government should domesticate NEPAD, so that the economy would be private sector driven with its attendant growth factor, adding that it is imperative that African