

International Airport in Abidjan for the Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS... Friday

Continued on p

4 Dead as Gunmen Attack Emir of Kano

● *Kwankwaso, Tambuwal, Yuguda condemn incident*

Ike Abonyi in Abuja and
Ibrahim Shuaibu in Kano

Four persons were killed yesterday as gunmen, believed to have laid ambush, opened

fire on the convoy of the Emir of Kano Alhaji Ado Bayero who was on his way back to the palace after attending a Quranic competition in the city.

Though Bayero, a highly

revered traditional ruler in the North, survived the attack, but apart from those who died several others also sustained serious injuries.

Among those who lost their lives is the interim Chairman

of Kumbotso Local Government in the state, Alhaji Muhammad Kura.

The three others are said to be palace guards. Their names were not disclosed.

Bala Salihu, Director of Press

to the state's Deputy Governor Abdullahi Musa Ganduje, said Kura's remains, taken to the Murtala Mohammed Specialist Hospital Kano, had been collected for burial.

Continued on page 7

Durosinmi-Etti
2013 Budget: Govt
Should Hit the Ground
Running
Business Interview

Joy Emenadi
I Lay Issues Before
President The Way
They Are... No Eye
Service
Gavel to Gavel

Damilola Oyedele in Abuja

Nigerians serving in various prisons in the United Kingdom will soon be sent back home to serve their jail terms following a bill to that effect now waiting for President Goodluck Jonathan's assent.

The Clerk of the National Assembly Salisu Maikasuwa forwarded the bill passed by the lawmakers to the President in December last year.

Under the new bill, Nigerians serving in UK jails will be repatriated home without their consent.

THISDAY on Sunday had exclusively reported in August last year that the prisoners' exchange programme entered into between Nigeria and UK was

suffering a hitch because of the domestic laws in Nigeria, which oppose forceful repatriation.

Of the 571 Nigerians serving in UK prisons as at August 2012, only 40 of them were said to have agreed to return home to serve out the remainder of their sentences.

One prisoner was repatriated to Nigeria in May last year from the UK and is serving out his term at an undisclosed prison in the country.

However, according to THISDAY investigations, the larger majority were stalling the transfer as they know their repatriation home to serve out their jail term could not be effected without their consent.

The newspaper had reported that the 1963 Prisons Act would have to be amended to pave

way for the bringing the issue

If President the amendment at least 350 prisoners in eligible for return to Nigeria

Eligibility is the seriousness for which a prisoner is jailed and the he has left or

The Head of the British Embassy in Abuja Pat THISDAY at that the Senate of Representatives amendment be convinced the to return prisoners minor offences to pay parking

4 DEAD AS GUNMEN ATTACK EMIR OF KANO

Eyewitnesses told THISDAY that immediately the emir left the venue of the Quranic competition, a suspected bomb was reported to have gone off in an SUV vehicle before the emir's vehicle could reach the main road.

This was followed by gunshots from the suspect assailants.

The eyewitnesses said after shooting at the emir's convoy, the gunmen began shooting sporadically into the air to scare away people.

According to them, it took the courage of the policemen attached to the emir to repel the attack and conveyed Bayero to safety.

Confirming the attack, Spokesman of the Joint Security Task Force (JTF) Captain Ikedichi Iweha said, "It's true the emir's convoy was attacked but the emir is safe and healthy".

Kano State Governor Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, however, confirmed three persons dead.

The governor who made a broadcast to the people of the state on the incident also confirmed that the emir is hale and hearty.

He asked the people to continue to go about their normal businesses.

Kwankwaso denied speculations going round the city that the government had imposed curfew on the state from 6 pm to 6 am, stating that no curfew was imposed, as such, people should carry on with their normal businesses.

The sudden pandemonium that followed the attack made some road users especially those plying Zoo Road and other adjoining roads in Kano to, out of the ensuing confusion and fear for their lives, be involved in accidents.

No group had claimed responsibility for the attack at press time but security operatives have swung into action.

Meanwhile, though the dreaded Islamist sect Boko Haram has been on rampage in Kano lately, security agents may look not only in the direction of Boko Haram in the search for the attackers of the highly revered Bayero.

A dependable security source told THISDAY in Abuja that there could be more to the attack than the notorious religious sect.

When asked if they were suspecting any group outside Boko Haram, the source said, "in a situation as we are in some Northern states, virtually all crimes are subsumed in Boko Haram but it is our work to identify and separate them."

House of Representatives Speaker Aminu Waziri Tambuwal condemned the attack, describing it as callous and inhumane.

He said from all indications it was meant to shatter the resolve of peace-loving persons in the federation.

Also, Bauchi State Governor Isa Yuguda described the attack as barbaric and unfortunate.



CAMAF

L-R: Ogun S Akpabio, and Government

ANYAOKU: W

Harare prime

The former said, "When Government Nigeria, someone knew me likely to resign an unusual a special request their full confidence Secretary-General that I would the Commonwealth Nigeria's recorded the confidence easier for me might have been

JONATHAN, PDP COURT OBASANJO

But the reconciliation between the President Jonathan and former president planned by PDP leaders failed to hold.

President Jonathan was represented at the reception in Abeokuta, Ogun State by Vice-President Namadi Sambo. Also, only two PDP governors-Godswill Akpabio of Akwa Ibom and Emmanuel Uduaghan of Delta, attended the reception.

But Imo State Governor Rochas Okorocha and Ogun State Governor Ibikunle Amosun, who belong to the All Progressives Alliance and Action

Congress of Nigeria, among others were also in attendance.

Sambo arrived at the event in company with PDP National Chairman Alhaji Bamanga Tukur.

Jonathan described Obasanjo as a much admired and highly respected elder statesman whose life is closely tied to the history and evolution of Nigeria.

The President, along with PDP chairman Tukur and former President of Ghana, John Kuffour, commended Obasanjo for his leadership.

President Jonathan lauded that the administration of the

former president he called so the development through various programmes administrative

He expressed to the former supportive role ment of the

The President Nigerians this was on couple promises an obligations called for cooperation and unders it achieve it