

persons are very influential persons and political heavy weights they will influence the witnesses.

# Robbers invade Lagos, kill two, injure others

By Ifeanyi Okolie

LAGOS—TWO persons were killed while several others were wounded yesterday when armed robbers invaded three locations in Lagos State. The rampaging robbers also made away with undisclosed huge amount of money.

Sources said the robbers numbering over ten invaded an oil depot at Elere around 12 noon where they succeeded in carting away cash and other valuables before proceeding to the motorcycle market at Isokoko. It was gathered that the robbers who were armed with sophisticated weapons held traders at the motorcycle market hostage for over one hour and left after disposing them of millions of naira.

Eyewitness account said the robbers ran into a traffic hold-up as they were fleeing from the scene through Ipaja road and opened fire freely in all directions. One of the robbers reportedly stood in the middle of the road and was releasing bullets indiscriminately.

Vanguard learnt that a male passenger inside a commercial bus who was later identified as a popular welder at Aro road in Agege was killed instantly while many others were wounded as a result of the shooting. The conductor of the bus who was also hit by stray bullet was rushed to a nearby hospital but he later gave up the ghost. A source also said the robbers later took a detour and ended up around Dopemu area where they boarded a motorcycle and escaped.

# UAC opens Nando's at MMA2

By Lucky Oji

UAC Plc has given users of the Muritala Mohammed Domestic Airport II (MMA II), the new wing of the busy airport which has been in the news for the wrong reasons in the recent past something to cheer with the opening of Nando's.

and hospitality for which Nando's has gained universal renown. It introduces something extra to the travel experience of Nigerians and their friends from all over the world who use the airport. We are here to offer the Nando's Peri-Peri perfect blend of flavour and fire.

For Alex Van Elk, Managing

LAGOS—AS Nigeria joined the rest of the world to mark the 2008 World AIDS Day, the Lagos State government yesterday disclosed that there has been a consistent drop in HIV & AIDS prevalence rates in the state.

According to the State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Jide Idris, the prevalence dropped from 6.7 per cent in 1999 to 3.3 per cent in 2005.

Speaking at a press conference to mark the Day in Lagos, with the theme; Leadership and Action and the slogan "Stop AIDS, Keep the Promise, Idris assured Lagosians living with HIV&AIDS that the state will continue to provide free treatments, sup-

the promise, we have been able to sensitize the Lagos community effectively. According to the 2005 National HIV & AIDS and Reproductive Health Survey, more than 97 per cent of Lagosians have heard of HIV and AIDS and

Disease Control, Dr. Femi Taiwo, the Commissioner attributed the achievement to the collaborative efforts of the civil society, the private sector and the state government in HIV&AIDS prevention and management.

# Lagos task force seals nine illegal pharmacy shops

By Chioma Obinna & Joy Isei

LAGOS—THE Lagos State Task Force on Counterfeit and Fake Drug and Unwholesome Processed Foods has shut down nine illegal Pharmacy and Patent Medicine shops for

alleged illegal operation, selling of fake and expired drugs.

Also, no fewer than fake and expired drugs valued at N100 million were recovered from the affected shops and three of its operators arrested.

This is coming on the heels of a renewed war being wage against fake and expired drugs by the state government following NAFDAC's recent discovery of a killer- teething mixture, 'My Pikin' which have killed more than 39 children across the nation. The State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Jide Idris who disclosed this shortly after the raid, explained that the exercise was meant to decisively stop the dangers associated with the activities of illegal operators within markets in the state.

yande disclosed that the commissioner had set up a unit that would take record of cases in all states police commands with a view to checking reports of extra judicial killing.

"At the end of every year, any state found to commit extra judicial killing, the CP will be banned from holding any command. The most important value is human life and you cannot just snuff life out of one anyhow. If it happens to your children will you like it?, he asked all present, adding that

# PSC wants 10,000 sacked police officers reinstated

By Evelyn Usman

LAGOS—THE Police Service Commission (PSC) has called for the immediate re-instatement of 10,000 policemen of various ranks who were dismissed from the Police Force before it (PSC) fully came on board April this year, describing the dismissal as illegal.

Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Parry Osanyande, while addressing officers at the Zone II command, Onikan Lagos, com-

# 3rd Mainland: Two die in auto crash

By Evelyn Usman & Ifeanyi Okolie

LAGOS—TWO persons yesterday lost their lives in a ghastly motor accident that occurred on the 3<sup>rd</sup> mainland bridge, while several others sustained serious injuries. The auto crash which caused a hitch in the flow of traffic for over three hours, occurred at about 12.30pm.

Eye witnesses said a commercial bus popularly known as *molue*, heading towards Lagos Island, suddenly lost control following an apparent break failure. In the driver's bid to control the vehicle, the steering reportedly pulled off and ran into a dispatched rider. An explosion which sparked off fire, completely burnt the unidentified dispatched rider and the motorcycle beyond recognition.

A passenger believed to be the conductor of the fully loaded bus, who was flung out of the bus reportedly died, while others sustained varying degrees of injury as they struggled to come out of the vehicle which had tumbled. But for providence they would have reportedly been burnt by fire from the motorcycle.