

HUMAN ANGLE

Protest over alleged police brutality claims 5 in Kano

BY ABDULSALAM MUHAMMAD

KANO—A VIOLENT protest by angry youths in Dambatta, close to Kano city, over alleged police brutality claimed no fewer than five lives as dozens others sustained serious injuries.

Eye witness accounts told Vanguard that the demonstration was triggered off by the death of a suspected thief in police custody. Protest by the family of the deceased over the death spread like wildfire in the town.

The suspected thief, whose identity was still shrouded in secrecy was said to have been apprehended by the community and handed over to the police 'hale and hearty' at the time of the crime.

Sources said that the remains of the suspected thief was escorted by hundreds of youths to the pal-

ace of the District Head of the town before he was laid to rest.

Vanguard learnt that trouble started when the protesting youths made a spirited attempt to raze the police station in the town in retaliation but were rebuffed.

In the ensuing melee, unconfirmed reports said that five people died of gun shot wounds while dozens were equally injured in the crisis that lasted four hours in the city, 60km away from Kano.

Vanguard learnt that those with injuries were treated at the Dambatta General Hospital, while those with critical injuries were taken to private hospitals in Kano.

Normalcy had since been restored to the town following the deployment of anti riot police squad, but Vanguard noted that there was uneasy calm in the town as the streets were desolate and abandoned.

Nigerian Rasta doctor not bogus—SA Health Minister

THERE is no evidence so far that a Nigerian doctor, who worked at the BJ Vorster Hospital, in the Eastern Cape, is a bogus doctor, says Health Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi. However, addressing a press conference in Pretoria on Sunday, Motsoaledi did not rule out that the doctor had a case to answer.

"If this man is a quack or bogus doctor of some sort, we do not have any scientific or legal evidence of that," he said.

"No agency, government or non-governmental statutory [body] or otherwise, inside or outside the Republic of South Africa, has ever presented to us any evidence to that effect.

"Even the Hawks have never presented such evidence to us."

He said the Hawks spokesman had gone "into over-gear" in releasing the information to the media.

"I do not wish to be misquoted as saying that (he)

Hawks. He definitely does have a case to answer, but it is not what I read in the newspapers," said Motsoaledi.

Six allegedly bogus doctors from Nigeria and Zambia appeared in the Middelburg Magistrate's Court, in Mpumalanga, last week.

Hawks spokesman McIntosh Polela, said the case against the five, who faced charges of corruption, fraud, indecent assault and impersonating doctors, was postponed until February 23, when they are expected to apply for bail.

On Tuesday, last week, the Sowetan reported that one of the group, who worked at the BJ Vorster hospital in Kareedouw in the Eastern Cape, had passed a board examination required by the Health Professionals Council of South Africa.

At the time, Polela said that according to the Hawks' information, the man's qualification was



VISIT: From left: Governor Adams Oshiomhole of Edo State; Alhaji Najeem Usman Yasin, NURTW National President and the National Secretary of the association during a courtesy visit to the governor in Benin, weekend.

Mother, daughter perish in petrol fire accident

BY AUSTIN OGWUDA

ASABA—FEW months after the tragic collapse of an overhead tank at College of Education, Agbor, Delta State, which killed five pupils on November 2 last year, a petrol fire has claimed the lives of a 53 year old mother and her daughter in the area.

Vanguard gathered that the incident occurred weekend, when a motor cycle conveying jerry cans of fuel which was on top speed lost control and collided with another motorcycle conveying the mother and the daughter.

Report from the area said immediately the two motor-cycles collided, fire ignited and engulfed the occupants of the two motorcycles.

The woman was identi-

fied as Mrs. Blessing Igbenije while her 23 year old daughter's name was given as Izioma Igbenije. They died instantly, including the rider of the motorcycle that hit them, said to be popular seller of petrol in the black market. He was

said to have been heading to Ekuoku-Agbor, when the accident took place at Ogbe-Ohun, few metres to the house of the late woman, whose husband is a professional tailor.

Efforts by passersby to put out the fire were unsuccessful because the fire was

so intensive. Reacting to the incident, the State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Charles Muka said "it was an unfortunate incident. People should buy fuel from petrol stations to avoid fire."

Female police officer robbed of N55,000

BY AUSTIN OGWUDA

ASABA—FEAR has gripped residents of Asaba, Delta State capital, following the upsurge of robbery attacks especially snatching of money and telephone handsets from them by the armed hoodlums, who usually operate on motor cycles, popularly called *Okada*.

A female police officer

fell victim of such attack weekend, after withdrawing the sum of N55,000 from a new generation bank.

She was trailed by a two-man gang operating on Okada and robbed of the money at gun point in Asaba in a commando manner. There were several similar cases in and around Asaba.

But the state police command's spokesman, Mr. Charles Muka, denied that the situation was out of control, saying that police was on top of the situation and called for information from well-meaning members of the public to fighting crime generally in

the state.

Muka also said that two notorious armed robbers were gunned down in Warri. According to him, on the 15.2.11 at about 2230 hours, Quick Response Squad, QRS, in Warri received information that armed robbers were operating along Giwa Amu/Apala Street Warri. The team rushed to the scene and engaged the robbers in a gun duel and gunned down two of the robbers while two members of the gang escaped with bullet wounds, adding that "two locally made cut to size were recovered. Manhunt for fleeing gang members is on."

NABTEB gets substantive Registrar

BY GABRIEL ENOGHO-LASE

BENIN—PRESIDENT

renewed for another period of four years.

Until his appointment, Aworanti was the Acting