

Saturday NEWS

Monarch, wife, killed in Kaduna

BY LUKA BINNIYAT,
Kaduna

DESPITE the 24 hour curfew imposed in some parts of Kaduna State, the tension in the southern part of Kaduna State heightened yesterday, with the murder of the village head of Apiakashi in Takum District of Fanstuma Chiefdom, Chief Bulus Adamu and his wife, Ladi, allegedly by unknown Fulani gunmen, who also left two other persons critically wounded.

The Chiefdom, is about three kilometres, South of Kafanchan town. Consequently, hundreds of half naked women from

Kafanchan and other surrounding areas, marched through the streets in the early hours of yesterday, denouncing rising cases of unprovoked murder as well as the humiliation of innocent people by soldiers deployed to the area to maintain peace.

Saturday Vanguard reliably gathered that they thronged the main Kafanchan Police Station with bare-breasts to protest the alleged atrocities of soldiers, and blaming some unidentified Fulani for killing their people.

State Police Commissioner, Mallam Bala Nasarawa confirmed the two incidents

in a telephone interview with *Saturday Vanguard*, just as a source said that police men locked the gate to the police station while soldiers watched the women, who chanted Christian mourning hymns as sign of bereavement.

Mallam Nasarawa said, "It is true that some women are protesting against what has been happening here since peace left this town. But it is peaceful demonstration. It not true that all of them are leaving their breasts open. Many are wearing their clothes complete. But some have refused to cover their own."

A native of Apiakashi, who spoke to *Saturday Vanguard* on the death of the village head and his wife on the condition of anonymity said that the couple was killed at about 2am in the morning.

Bayelsa 2011: PDP at crossroads over Sylva

BY HENRY UMORU,
Abuja

SEVEN days to the Bayelsa primaries of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, the leadership of the National Working Committee of the party is at crossroads on whether to come up with a statement on the final disqualification of Sylva or his clearance to contest following the silence on the part of the leader of the party, President Goodluck Jonathan. It was also gathered that the fate of former Nigerian Ambassador to the Norwich region and Perma-

nent Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Godknows Igali, for the November 19 primaries was still not clear against the backdrop that the party was yet to put in place a special Screening Committee for him. He missed the last screening which took place in Port Harcourt.

Meanwhile, all is set for the primaries despite the fact that Sylva is yet to be cleared. 350 Delegates are expected to determine the fate of those already cleared by the NWC as members of the party, aspirants wait for the next batch that may be released by the leadership of the party.

FRSC rakes in N1.4bn from traffic offenders

BY CHRIS OCHAYI,
Abuja

THE Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC, yesterday disclosed that it has generated revenue to the tune of N1.4 billion as fines from motorists who violated the highways rules and regulations across the nation in 2010.

Corps Marshal and Chief Executive of the FRSC, Mr. Osita Chidoka who revealed this during a working visit to the Head of

the Civil Service of the Federation, Alhaji Isah Bello in Abuja, said the Corps have also recorded 35% reduction in road crash fatalities.

Chidoka further informed the Head of Service of the FRSC numerous achievements in the nation's road traffic administration which include the installation of 350 V-sats for effective communication and inter-connectivity among its formations across the country.

2 more die in Bayelsa cult fight

THE police command in Bayelsa State on Friday confirmed the death of two persons in a recent attack between rival cult members in the state.

Police public relations officer Eguaveon Emokpai (ASP) confirmed the incident in Yenagoa, saying the incident occurred at Erepa Road, Yenizue-Genae area of Yenagoa Thursday night.

The incident brings to 11, the number of casualties recorded in rival cult-related killings within a week in Yenagoa.

A source in the area said the unknown gunmen arrived at the family house of the victims at about 9.30pm, on Thursday and opened fire on their targets, who died on the spot while they escaped in their waiting car.

BY HENRY UMORU,
Abuja

ELDERS and Leaders of thought from Bayelsa State yesterday warned governors on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, to stay clear of the politics of the state, and allow the people of the area to decide who becomes their governor.

Chairman of Bayelsa Elders and Opinion Leaders, Col. Sam Inokoba, (Rtd) who addressed newsmen in Abuja yesterday said, "the Governors Forum as a body especially the South-South Governors Forum should desist from applying undue pressure on the PDP and the President to subvert the internal democratic process of the party which is crucial to the enthronement of democracy, adding that "the re-electability of Timipre Sylva is a decision that the people of Bayelsa state and his party. The PDP should determine."

Inokoba noted that the governors of the PDP states



The Dufil Prima Foods Limited, makers of Indomie Noodles donate science laboratory equipment to Kosofe Senior College, Ketu, yesterday. From (l) Aderinsola Sokunbi, Head girl; Mr. Temitope Asieaju, PRO of Dufil Prima Foods; Senator Olugbenga Ashafa; Mrs. Olanireti Fawole, Principal of the school; Ekpenyong Bassey, Head boy and Mr. Mufa Okus, Vice Chairman Agboyin Ketu, LCDA, at the presentation. Photo: Joe Akintola, Photo Editor.

More trouble for Sylva: Bayelsa Elders warn Govs to stay clear

have enough problems in their respective states to handle as well as provide good governance for their people.

The address which was entitled, "the fire within", disowned the Bayelsa federal lawmakers who on Thursday backed the embattled Governor Sylva just as they accused the PDP National Working Committee, NWC, of going beyond its bounds.

The speech read in part, "We, the Bayelsa Elders and Opinion Leaders have viewed with grave concern, the ongoing debate concerning the upcoming governorship elections in Bayelsa State and would like to state that there has been undue meddlesomeness by various groups in the internal matters of Bayelsa State and the PDP."

"What appears very disturbing about the Bayelsa situation is the attempt by the Governors Forum to interfere in the PDP governorship candidacy by putting pressure on President Goodluck Jonathan to ensure the return of Governor Sylva. It is worrisome that the entire

PDP governors will leave important state duties in their various states to converge in Abuja to lobby the president for the return of Sylva irrespective of whether he has performed well or not in the eyes of Bayelsans.

"The Chairman of the Governors' Forum, Rt Hon. Chibuike Amaechi as a democrat himself knows that this is not the best way to force through the candidacy of a colleague.

"There is nothing wrong if the PDP Governors give a helping hand to a colleague through campaigning for him if he is the party's candidate, but until that decision is made, they have no moral right to influence his adoption by the party. The crucial acid test must be based on the performance of Governor Sylva over the past four years and the decision must be left in the hands of the people who are the best to decide the extent of his performance during that period.

"We are aware of the huge funds dedicated by the Bayelsa State Government to lobby by various persons involved

in this matter. Such funds should be used for the development of the state which is in dire need of development after five years of impoverishment by the administration of Timipre Sylva.

"Equally, the members of the National Assembly should concentrate on the passage laws and mobilising support for the development of the state "Paragraph 16(f) of the electoral guidelines for primary elections is very clear in stating that "only aspirants whose appeal of the gubernatorial screening appeal panel was upheld shall be qualified to participate in the primary election". In this light, Timipre Sylva is not qualified to contest as the appeal panel has not cleared him. This is the position as at today and until the NWC of the PDP clears Chief Sylva.

"No longer should any candidate be it a governor, Senator, House of Representative member or local government chairman be selected to run by any godfather, clique or pressure group. Pressurising him to do otherwise would amount to subverting the same ethos that have been the guiding principle of his administration. "The Bayelsa case is not unique. There are precedence of underperforming PDP governors being denied a second tenure; the case of Governor Mbadinuju of Anambra State easily comes to mind."

Among those at the briefing were Mr. Foster Ogola who is the Secretary of the

Plea bargain: Conduct Bureau may retry 15 ex-govs

BY IKECHUKWU
NNOCHIRI, Abuja

INDICATIONS emerged yesterday that the Code of Conduct Bureau, CCB, may soon re-invite 15 former governors that hitherto entered into 'plea bargain' with the fed-

eration, however, the CCB Chairman, Mr. Sam Saba, subsequently disclosed the decision of the Bureau to drop the criminal charges against some of them who he said had restituted.

Meantime, sequel to refusal of the CCB to divulge the terms of the said resti-

duct for Public Officers were left off the hook.

Invoking the Freedom of Information Act 2011, CIS-LAC gave the Bureau seven days within which to furnish it with details of the initial charge sheet, detailing the offences that were levelled against all the governors' ab-initio.