

**VISIT: Governor Adams Oshiomhole of Edo State (left) and Mrs Grace Iyayi, President, Our Lady of Lourdes Grammar School, Uromi, Old Students Association, during a visit of executive members of association to the governor in Benin City, yesterday.**

## 3 dead, 100 injured as Delta community, Shell clash over GMoU

BY EMMA AMAIZE & AKPOKONA OMAFUAIRE

**UZERE (DELTA)**—ABOUT three persons are feared dead and 100 others, including women and children, injured in a stampede, yesterday, at Uzere in Isoko South Local Government Area of Delta, when soldiers and mobile policemen fired tear gas on protesters at a Shell Petroleum Development Company, SPDC, flow station in the area.

Angered by the action of the soldiers and policemen, the protesters burnt a Mercedes benz car and two Hilux vehicles provided for the security agents by the oil company.

Angry villagers also razed their traditional ruler's palace, his guest house and wife's store. They alleged that some leaders of the community were conspiring with the oil company against them.

At the time the community youths forced their way into the company, the security agents had become jittery over the repercussion of their action and fled.

Divisional Police Officer, DPO, for Isoko South, Chief Superintendent Chris Forgbara, who led a team of policemen to quell the disturbance was also affected by the tear-gas from the security agents, who also shot indiscriminately into the air.

Vanguard gathered that the community had expressed misgivings that SPDC, which started operations in the area since 1958, had not signed a

Global Memorandum of Understanding, GMoU, and, therefore, mobilised for a peaceful protest.

The protesters, numbering about 5,000, and led by members of the oil and gas committee in Uzere community, Messrs Okegbe Sam, Meshack Uge and Godspower Aluya, demanded that the barricade to the flow station be dismantled as they wanted to get to the gate and present their demands to the company.

It was alleged that the security agents insisted that they should disperse immediately and fired canisters of tear-gas into the air to scare them away. With gunshots also renting the air, the villagers ran helter-skelter, sustaining injuries in the process. The scale of the injury sustained by the protesters allegedly infuriated the entire community.

Over 500 motorcyclists, popularly known as *Okada*, also massed together and rode furiously, daring anybody to come out and attack them.

### Shell's 'crimes'

In a statement issued on the state of affairs between Shell and its host communities in Uzere kingdom, President-General of the community, Chief Emeakpo Owhe, said: "It is a known fact that Uzere land has been blessed with oil and gas. It is also a known fact that Shell has exploited this natural resources on our fatherland for the past 52 years (since 1958)."

He said the company did

not enter into any agreement with the people, adding, "consequent upon the above, we wrote Shell since February 2011 to come to Uzere to discuss and firm up the GMoU (Global Memorandum of Understanding) with Uzere communities.

"In October, we reminded Shell on the imperative of putting a framework in place for the GMoU so that we can legally know the basics for our relationship/partnering and cooperation with SPDC.

"The only hospital Shell managed to build in Uzere is not functional because it refused to fund the health insurance scheme that will enable the hospital take-off properly. SPDC funded a similar Obio Cottage hospital in River State at N24 million. Why have they refused to fund the Uzere Cottage Hospital?

"The ultimatum given to Shell on the issue of GMoU with Uzere kingdom expired months ago, but up till now Shell has not shown any interest to have a GMoU with Uzere kingdom, its host.

"We have also written to the Delta State Government on the refusal by Shell to sign the GMoU. The Uzere community has, therefore, decided that if SPDC still wants to operate in Uzere land, it should come and sign a GMoU with Uzere before carrying out further oil activities with effect from today (yesterday)."

### Shell responds

Shell Media Officer in Warri, Mr. Joseph Obari told Vanguard: "We have

confirmed that a group of youths from Uzere community this morning (Tuesday) invaded SPDC's Uzere Flow Station and shut it down. They attacked workers and burnt two security vehicles."

According to him, the youths were reportedly demanding the signing of a GMoU with the community.

He added: "SPDC has phased the implementation of its highly successful GMoU model for sustainable development. Apart from two GMoUs tied to specific projects, the programme is already being implemented in three clusters in Delta State.

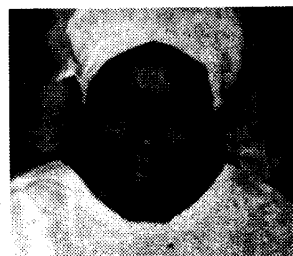
"We are working with the Delta State government to resolve the situation."

### Passage

**MRS** Angelina Akpaka of Agenebode, Edo State, 78, is dead. She died on Friday, November 18.

She is survived by many children, grand children and in-laws including, Mr. Taye Obateru, Vanguard's correspondent in Jos.

She will be buried in Agenebode on December 17.



**Late Mrs Akpaka.**

## Abubakar tasks Nigerians on projects security

BY TONY NYONG

**UYO**—GENERAL Abdulsalami Abubakar (rtd.), former military Head of State, has enjoined Nigerians to jealously guard the development projects provided by their leaders against vandalism.

General Abubakar, accompanied by his wife, Hon. Justice Fati and other dignitaries, gave the courtesy visit on Governor Godswill Akpabio Akwa Ibom in Uyo.

Abubakar was full of praises for Governor Akpabio's development strides. He said Akwa Ibom

people should see the need to pay their taxes having seen where Akpabio's administration has put their money in the last few years.

He said: "Without doubt, your enemies would accept that you have broad development projects. I wish Akwa Ibom people well and would expect them to play their part well."

Akpabio had earlier welcomed them to the state and conducted them around the new Governor's Lodge, flyovers at Itam junction, e-library at IBB Avenue, Banquet Hall and Tropicana Entertainment Centre all built and completed by his administration.

## I never had problems with Thai govt—Cleric

BY JOHNBOSCO AGBAKWURU

**CALABAR**—WORLD Overseer of Hebron Harvest International Ministry, Bishop Frank Owali, has debunked reports that he attacked Thai authorities for being hostile to Nigerians resident in the country.

Owali, whose ministry's headquarters is in Bangkok, explained that the problem in the country was between the Nigerian community and the Nigerian embassy as the Nigerian citizens alleged

that they were not being protected by the embassy.

He said: "It was not true that I also fled the country as a result of the alleged hostility of the Thai authorities or harassment by the police in that country. I came to Nigeria on my own.

"I have never had any problem with the Thai government and never reported any case of police attack or harassment.

"The only problem Nigerians had was with the Nigeria Ambassador in Thailand."

## PayMaster set for CBN's cashless economy

**PAYMASTER** Limited, a leading indigenous e-business infrastructure provider, has reaffirmed its commitment to the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN's new policy for a cashless economy.

According to PayMaster, it has started driving implementation of the policy through increased deployment of Point of

Sale, PoS, terminals across select locations in Lagos ahead of commencement of *Cashless Lagos* in January 2012.

*Operation Cashless Lagos* is a six-month test-run of CBN's cashless policy aimed at moderating the volume of cash in the system and encouraging use of PoS terminals.

### PUBLIC NOTICE COVENANT HOPE BIBLE CHURCH

The above named church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under part "C" of the Companies and Allied matters Act of 1990.

#### THE TRUSTEES ARE:-

1. PST KYARI D. JOSEPH - PRESIDENT
2. (MRS) KYARI CHIBUZOR ESTHER
3. MR. PAUL ANYIRA
4. (MRS) NNEKA OFORJI
5. BRO FAHARIYA GODFREY.

#### AIM AND OBJECTIVE:

To propagate and expand the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in Nigeria and Abroad through the preaching, crusades, electronic and print media, Christian literatures and publications.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of the publication.

T.C. Anyika Esq.  
Witness/Chairman of Commission  
Post 1000, Kaduna Road,  
Kaduna