

money between January and August 2011.

This figure however is in conflict with the N1.348 trillion said to have been spent on subsidy by the Petroleum Product Pricing Regulatory Agency, PPPRA.

Abe who is also the chair-

correct figure was N1.348 trillion, just as he debunked the alleged N450 billion kerosene subsidies owed the NNPC by the Federal Government, adding that the claims were not recorded in their books.

However, Senator Abe

Senator Abe who invited the marketers to explain how much they benefited from the subsidy, however questioned the rational in involving over 100 marketers, even as some of them were construction compa-

isiation in Nigeria that would restrict expression, assembly or organisation based on sexual orientation or gender identity," a statement issued by the US embassy said.

"The United States believes that all people de-

med, it will investigate a

One dies, scores injured as petrol tanker catches fire in Lagos

BY MONSUR OLOWOOPEJO

ONE person yesterday died and scores of persons were left with different degrees of injuries when a tanker fully loaded with petrol product fell at about 5:30pm and burst into flames at Centre for Management Development, (CMD) junction, long Lagos-Ibadan expressway, Lagos.

The fire which expand-

ed over 100 metres from the junction of the express road to the end of Adekunle Banjo street, Magodo area of Lagos roasted 20 rams and burnt over seven cars, including a gas tanker with registration no. XF 740-LSR.

According to the Seriki of CMD, ram market, Alh. Musa Ahmadu, said that the fuel tanker fell into the pit beside the express road when he lost control when he was trying to negotiate a bend at the CMD junction.

Two kidnapped Americans released

TWO Americans abducted off the Nigerian coast last month from a vessel contracted to the Chevron oil company have been released, the U.S. embassy in Abuja said on Friday.

A Mexican citizen was also released, Nigerian security sources said. The embassy gave no further details about how they were freed but the sources said ransom demands had been discussed.

Eight pirates boarded the oil supply vessel contracted to the U.S. energy giant on November 17, taking the three hostages.

Recent attacks on ships off the Nigerian coast and other countries in the Gulf of Guinea are threatening the region's position as an emerging trade hub that is an increasingly important source of oil and other commodities for world markets.

Senate under attack for refusing Ojukwu state burial

BY EMEKA MAMAH AND TONY EDIKE, Kaduna

THE Senate has come under harsh criticisms following its rejection of calls by Nigerians that former Head of State of the defunct Biafra, late Dim Chukuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu be given a state burial by the Federal Government.

The Senate was said to have resolved that since Ojukwu was not a former Head of State or government, the eight states which eastern states which make the area where he governed as military governor should give him a befitting burial. This is even as the defunct Biafran war veterans, yesterday, absolved Ojukwu of blames leading to the 1967 to 1970 civil war pointing out that their former leader

did not declare war on the Federal Government as some Nigerians have claimed, but rather, it was the federal troops that attacked Biafra first, and Dim Ojuk-

wu only fought in defence of the former Eastern region. However, the Kaduna based Civil Rights Congress of Nigeria, CRCN, has lambasted the Senate for rejecting a state burial for late

Ikemba Nnewi, Chief Ojukwu, saying that this has shown that the encomiums showered on him was nothing other than "hypocrisy" and "media oops."

Polls: 2 die as 15,000 cops move to Kogi

BY KINGSLEY OMONOBI, OKEY NDIRIBE, EMMAN OVUAKPORIE & ISIAKA OYIBO, Abuja

TWO persons are feared dead as 15,000 police personnel have been drafted to maintain peace in Kogi State during today's governorship election in the state even as the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC has provided 10 hot lines to enable those with problems contact the commission for immediate solu-

tion.

The two persons were feared dead as PDP and ACN supporters clashed in a beer parlour in Kogi State over which of the two parties would win today's governorship poll in the state. The incident occurred at about 11am yesterday in Ofu Local Government.

The Police were immediately invited to the troubled spot. The state Police Commissioner Mr. Ammana Apakanga confirmed the incident saying "we have already drafted our men to the spot to maintain law and order."

Inspector General of Police, IGP, Hafiz Abubakar Ringim who deployed the policemen also re-deployed 10 Police Commissioners who will take charge of different states in the country. Saturday Vanguard gathered that following claims and counter claims by the contending political parties, that thugs have been imported into the state while arms and ammunition were stocked- piled to create mayhem and hijack voting materials and ballot boxes, Ringim directed security beef up.