

NEWS

Why FG has not tamed Boko Haram

Continues from Page 1
the insurgents.

Minister of Police Affairs, Navy Capt Caleb Olubolade (rtd) who spoke with newsmen in Ipoti Ekiti, Ijero Local Government Area of Ekiti State nevertheless assured Nigerians of the administration's readiness to meet the insurgents head on.

While admitting that the police was not yet on top of security challenges, especially as it affects Boko Haram, Olubolade said the menace of the religious sect was a new dimension in the history of the country.

He said: "We need information from the people without which we cannot perform optimally. I will not say that we have done marvelously well on Boko Haram. This is because it is a new dimension and Nigerians like to import foreign things. It is alien to Nigerians. Because it is new, we cannot say we are on top of it yet. However, the current security situation has given us the opportunity to reappraise our security apparatus and it is teaching us a new way to approach it. It has also shown us that we should be our brothers' keeper. It has also taught us that we should give information to the police because without information, even the best-trained police force or security outfit cannot function well."

Olubolade said his

ministry was still procuring means and expanding the capacity of the security agencies through new technologies to be able to effectively tackle the security situation. He said the Police have been expanding the scope of trainings of personnel to be able to face the challenge posed by some dangerous sects in the country.

One killed, 12 injured in Jos explosions

Meanwhile one person was confirmed dead and about 12 others injured in Saturday night's multiple blasts in the Plateau State capital as condemnations trailed what some described as continued onslaught on innocent Nigerians.

A lady had her two legs chopped off while some others had multiple fractures when the explosives planted close to crowded viewing centres where people were watching European football went off at three points almost simultaneously. The incident created fresh panic as residents remained indoors for the better part of the day.

Former Governor of the state, Ambassador Fidelis Tapgun, condemned the attack targeted at innocent Nigerians. Tapgun told Vanguard in a chat that violence has not been known to solve any problem anywhere in the

world and appealed to those concerned to explore dialogue as an option rather than taking on fellow Nigerians who have nothing to do with their grievances.

Addressing journalists yesterday, Operation Commander of the Special Task Force, STF, maintaining security in the state, Col. Joseph Iwara, said security has been beefed up around the affected areas adding that shrapnels from the explosives were picked from the scenes for further analysis.

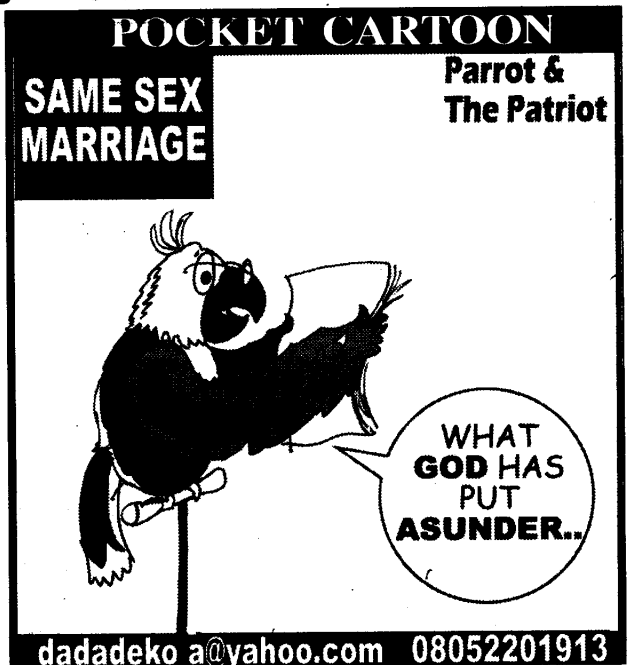
He said that those injured in the explosions were receiving treatment at the Jos University Teaching

Hospital, JUTH, and the Bingham University Teaching Hospital, both in Jos.

The state government has also condemned the explosions describing it as "acts of wickedness deliberately targeted at innocent civilians going about their normal lawful business."

Commissioner for Information and Communication, Mr. Yiljap Abraham said in a statement, that the action will not deter government from sustaining and strengthening the existing peace in the state and condoled with the bereaved family while wishing the injured quick recovery.

At JUTH, some of the in-



jured said they were engrossed in the match they were watching when the explosions hit them. It was

gathered that two of the eight people taken to the hospital have undergone surgery.

FUEL SUBSIDY REMOVAL, INSECURITY

Anarchy looms, say leaders of thought

• **Nigeria must be re-designed and rebuilt, not re-branded**
— **Nwabueze**

BY CLIFFORD NDUJICHE, Deputy Political Editor

SOME leaders of thought in the country, yesterday, reviewed the rising wave of instability and insecurity in the country, government's insistence on removing fuel subsidy as well as the delay in restructuring the polity and returned a damning verdict: anarchy looms!

The leaders under the banner of National Consensus Group of Project Nigeria, warned that mass revolts were imminent in the country if the state of affairs remained unchanged.

The group's spokesman, Mr. Wale Okunniyi, said in a statement that except Nigerians took their destinies in their hands by compelling the government to respect their will, the country might be plunged into a surprise extra legal intervention.

He said the eminent leaders' group driven by senior citizens like Prof Ben Nwabueze, SAN, Alhaji Maitama Sule, Dr Tunji Braithwaite, Alhaji Balarabe Musa, Chief Audu Ogbah, Dr Kalu Idika Kalu, Dr Lateef Adegbite, Olisa Agbakoba, SAN, Labour and civil society leaders among others were disappointed at the present state of affairs in the country orchestrated by system and leadership failure. Indeed, one of the leaders, Professor Nwabueze, picked holes in the government's

current moves to amend sections of the 1999 Constitution, saying the country needed a brand new code book.

Okunniyi said: "Nigerians must note that the general insecurity in the land, the unabated suicide bombings and pervasive frustrations of the masses, the refusal of the ruling class to open up space for genuine national negotiation as well as the politics of oil subsidy versus minimum wage are all ominous symptoms of deeper structural and governance crisis in the country, which is beyond the present rhetoric of government."

"Given several assessments and consultations we have made on the dangerous state of affairs in the North, Niger Delta, South East, Middle Belt, etc, and on the widening gap of exclusions in governance, the fear of our rulers to allow for a genuine national dialogue and the resultant bottled up anger everywhere, I can bet that, there shall be an organized mass action and a major shaking in the country soon."

New constitution, not amendment
— **Nwabueze**

Stressing the need for the country to go for a fresh constitution, Nwabueze said most stakeholders in the country were unanimous on the issue. He said: "The question

remains, however, as to how this supreme objective is to be accomplished. The answer, of course, is that Nigeria must be re-designed and rebuilt, not re-branded. To rebuild a house, you must re-design the super-structure. If the super-structure is not got right, the edifice must wobble continuously, as Nigeria has been wobbling since it was built by the British colonists."

"Now, the super-structure of a state, like Nigeria, is its constitution. In the democratic age in which we live today, the generally accepted super-structure for a stable, enduring state, not a wobbly one, is a democratic constitution, otherwise called a people's constitution. What is a democratic constitution or rather why is a democratic constitution called a People's Constitution? The answer lies in the meaning of democracy itself. Democracy is a form of government in which the people is everything — the ultimate law-maker; the source of all power; the bestower of the mandate or authority, through their votes at elections, for the exercise of power by those elected to rule."

"A constitution is not democratic simply because it establishes a democratic form of government. Democratisation rests on a false and weak foundation if a democratic form of government, as enshrined in the constitution, is not in fact the choice of the people

expressed by means of a national conference, followed by approval at a referendum or by a Constituent Assembly specially and specifically elected for the purpose."

The practical significance of a democratic constitution in the context of Nigeria, as in the context of the rest of Africa, lies partly in the nature and structure of our society. It is in this respect that Nigeria and Africa differ fundamentally from the U.S. and Europe. Whilst each of the original 13 colonies and, even more so, each of 50 States that make up the United States today, comprises peoples of different languages, races, religions and cultural backgrounds, each of those different peoples does not, by and large, inhabit a separate territorial area as to constitute a separate territorial entity, as is the case in Africa. The diverse ethnic groups comprised in the state in Africa, the Hausa/Fulani, Yoruba, the Igbo, the Ijaws, the Urhobos, the Itsekiris, the Ibibios and other ethnic groups in Nigeria for example, inhabit each a separate territorial area, which constitutes them a separate territorial entity. Creating a nation out of a diversity of peoples each inhabiting a separate territorial area and constituting a separate territorial entity confronts a problem fundamentally different in nature and character from that faced by the Americans since 1787."

TAKE HEART

BY ELLA RANDLE

Human beings have a host of needs, a need for love and recognition, for belonging and identity, for purpose and a meaningful life. If all these needs had to be subsumed in one word, it might be respect — William Ury

EVERY human being and nation, irrespective of their power or strength, has the right to be respected. It means being treated with consideration and esteem and to be willing to treat people similarly. It means to have a regard for other peoples' feelings, it means listening to people and hearing them, i.e. giving them one's full attention. Even more importantly, respect means treating one another with dignity.

Sarah Cobbs says it aptly "Respect plays an important role in a number of ways: Respect allows one to build trust with 'the other.' Respect allows one to build and rebuild relationships. It provides one with 'an entry,' into the other side. Those who are respected within the community are most likely to be able to bring or encourage peace. In addition, respect can make the key difference in the direction of any conflict situation".

When we live in love, fear disappears and we can spread positive energy to everyone around us. If you look for the good in others, you will find it. Cultivate goodwill within yourself and plant the seed in others, what we give to life comes back in manyfold.

In life the beautiful lofty things are beyond ordinary perceptions, it is about living gracefully, so simple and yet profound. It is doing to another as I would to do to myself.