

Gunmen kill eight •P.45
persons in Nasarawa

Segun Osoba Does It Again

AREMO Segun Osoba's smooth transition from reporter to editor to politician and back to a quiet private life can leave people wondering what it is about this man.

He made history when as a reporter at the Daily Times, using his investigative skills, he found the corpse of Nigeria's first Prime Minister Abubakar Tafawa Balewa. The Prime Minister had been assassinated with other politicians in the wake of Nigeria's first coup d'etat in 1966. There was confusion and uncertainty in the air. Nobody knew where the corpse was. Then all of a sudden, Segun Osoba by

sheer serendipity got the biggest exclusive story of his entire life. A contact had tipped him off on the whereabouts of Balewa's corpse. He obviously sped to the place, combed the bush, and luckily saw the gory sight of the Prime Minister's corpse in all its awfulness. An emotional story that would make any reporter feel like the first man to walk on the moon. That is one big story that was Osoba's defining moment as a newspaper reporter. Read more about the reporter's reporter in his book *Osoba - The Newspapers Years*. Only in Vanguard from Wednesday.



Tension in Jos as death toll rises to 19

- Christian, Muslim youths renew hostilities
- Reports of silent killings across the city

PINI JASON:
Ojukwu's burial:
A referendum on
Nigeria •P. 17

BY TAYE OBATERU &
SAM EYOBOKA

JOS—THE death toll from Sunday's suicide bomb attack on St Finbarr's Catholic Church, Jos and the ensuing reprisals rose to 19 yesterday as more corpses were taken to hospitals.

This came as tension enveloped parts of the city following renewed hostilities between Christian and Muslim youths on revenge mission over reprisal killings that started since Sunday. There were

Continues on Page 5



NIGERIA'S ECONOMIC ARTERY BLOCKED AGAIN—Oshodi/Apapa Expressway, yesterday.
Photo: Bunmi Azeez.

Nigerian ship arrested in Ghana over crude oil theft — P. 6



NEWS

Tension in Jos as death toll rises to 19

Continues from Page 1

unconfirmed reports of more silent killings in various parts of the city. Many residents in Tinna Junction, Fillin Ball and Duala areas had to run for cover as security men shot into the air to disperse scores of youths from both sides who were advancing towards each other for a showdown.

While a source said the fresh tension followed the disappearance of some people suspected to have been killed by one of the sides, another version said a bus conductor was attacked in a part of the town and when the driver who escaped with injuries reported to his people, they mobilized for a confrontation.

The timely intervention of security men saved what would have been another blood bath as they shot into the air to disperse the rampaging youths. Many who heard the gun shots ran to pick their children from school while businesses hurriedly shut down.

Chief Medical Director of the Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH), Dr. Ishaya Pam confirmed in an interview that seven additional corpses were taken to the hospital yesterday in addition to those deposited on Sunday.

He also confirmed that one of the injured on admission died yesterday morning while

the others were responding to treatment.

Similarly, Chief Medical Director of Plateau Specialist Hospital, Dr. Bitrus Matawal confirmed that 10 corpses have so far been taken to the hospital.

The Chief of Defence Staff, Air Chief Oluseyi Petirin was also in the state to assess the security situation.

Accompanied by the Commander of the Special Task Force (STF) Major Gen. Ibrahim Mohammed; Deputy Inspector General of Police, John Haruna, he visited the attacked church, some of the victims of the attack and was at the Government House to see Governor Jonah Jang at the time of this report.

In another attack yesterday, suspected Fulani herdsmen killed two and injured three people at Bum village in Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State. It was unclear if the attack had anything to do with the suicide bomb attack but those injured are receiving treatment at the Vom Christian Hospital.

Meanwhile, the Chief of Defence Staff, Air Chief Oluseyi Petirin has assured that the problem of bombings would soon be surmounted, assuring that strategies would be drawn up to counter the activities of the terrorists.

Speaking with journalists after an

assessment of the security situation in Jos, he commiserated with the people of the state over the attack which he described as an attempt to pitch the people against one another.

"These are people who are bent on getting different communities to be at each other's throats so that it will look as if there is no security. We are now going to devise a strategy to stop it and you will see the effect", he said.

Pam cautions Christian youths against reprisal

In a related development, chairman of Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN in charge of North Central zone, Rev. Yakubu Pam who described the latest bomb attack on St. Finbarr's Church in Jos as shocking, however, appealed to Christian youths in Plateau State to sheathe their weapons and refrain from reprisal measures.

Reacting to the suicide bomb in the church Sunday morning, Rev. Pam said the news came to him as a surprise, adding "but it is not exactly shocking because in Nigeria nothing is shocking any more. When you take a look at the things that happen here, you will recognize that anything can happen in this nation."

The cleric, a pastor with the Assemblies of God Church in Jos, Plateau State, maintained that the continued violent attacks on innocent Nigerian citizens has remained essentially because there has not been any concerted effort to tackle the emerging spate of terrorism in the country. He stated that "if the government decides to implement all former recommendations of various panels to study the immediate causes of the protracted ethno-religious crises in Nigeria the problem would have ended."

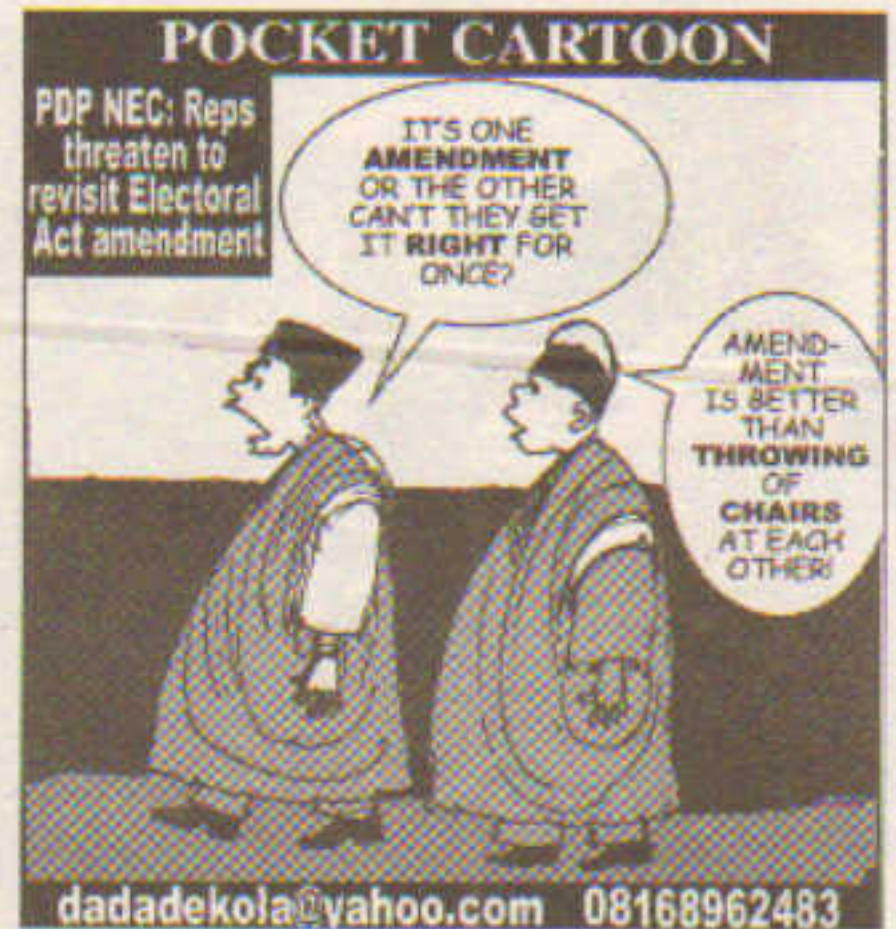
Pam, who aligned himself with the position of the umbrella body of Christians, CAN, urged the Federal Government not to pamper perpetrators of terrorism.

While urging Christian youths to restrain themselves from reprisal measures, he urged

government to address the issue of unrest in the North, saying "when you look at the crises from another angle you will discover that the action of the youths is as a result of bottled anger."

"The authorities must try to understand that the people are only expressing their anger. If you witness happenings in the area, the youths are demonstrating their ability to protect themselves in the absence of governmental protection," he said.

"Two people cannot be mad at the same time. It takes God to protect lives and property. What is happening is an orchestrated evil raging in the land with a mission and only God can deal with such evil," he said, adding that Christians will not be deterred by the raging



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evil. According to the cleric, "except the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stands guard in vain. Our God is able to stand in the gap to protect His children against any form of evil". It will be recalled that 10 persons including a pregnant woman were killed by suicide bombers during a church service at the St. Finbarr's Catholic Church, Jos, the Plateau State capital on Sunday and several others were said to be receiving treatment in different hospitals in the Tin City.

Northern govs meet over security threat

BY HENRY UMORU

ABUJA — GOVERNORS of the 19 Northern states under the aegis of the Northern Governors Forum, held a closed door emergency meeting yesterday to discuss, among others, the disturbing insecurity situation in the region.

The meeting came on the heels of the meeting between the Vice President, Namadi Sambo and governors from the North-West which also held earlier yesterday with the issue of insecurity as the major subject of discussion.

A source at the meetings told Vanguard that the northern governors were particularly concerned with the killing of two foreign workers in the country last Thursday.

British Chris McManus and Italian Franco Lamolinara were shot in the head by their captors in a failed attempt by Nigerian soldiers and members of the Special Boat Service (SBS) from Britain to rescue them.

Both men were kidnapped in May last year in Kebbi State and taken to Sokoto.

Also, the latest attack

on a Church in Jos was a matter of concern to the governors.

It was further gathered that the meeting was in furtherance to the late January meeting between the vice president and the governors where it was agreed that the

governors should go all out to ensure that there is peace in the Northern part of the country.

The Asokoro meeting, the source said, also took a second look at its demand for more share from the federation account amongst other issues.

NECO vows not to lower standards

BY WOLE MOSADOMI

MINNA — NATIONAL Examinations Council, NECO, has pledged that it will not lower its standard in a bid to be patronised by eligible students.

Registrar/Executive of the Council, Professor Promise Okpala who made this known while answering questions from reporters in Minna, capital of Niger State also denied that there was rivalry between NECO and the National Business and Technical Examination Board, NABTEB, as both examination bodies like others were championing the same cause of raising standard of education in the country.

Okpala however, said that NECO had become more acceptable by students and higher institutions within and outside the country because of its high standard and zero tolerance for examination fraud.

He pointed out that the problems of examination leakage, impersonation, certificate racketeering among others have been reduced to the barest minimum, thereby making it easy for the certificate to be generally acceptable.

Okpala attributed the modest achievements made by the council in that regard to the uncompromising attitude of staff towards conducting credible examinations without lowering standards to induce popularity.

TAKE HEART

BY ELLA RANDLE

"Listen to the quietest whispers of your heart. They are telling you the choices that will help you the most." - Shad Helmstetter

EVERYTHING we do in life is a choice, and I think most of us realize that. What we choose to do and don't do in life is also a choice. Sometimes, choosing not to do something is the wisest choice. However, there is a huge difference between choosing not to do something and choosing to do nothing.

Anytime you want to, you can change your life, but just wanting to change is not enough. You must make a choice to change. Doing nothing and wishing things will change is like the saying, "if wishes were horses beggars would ride".

The thought of having a different life, or a different quality of life, is very appealing to most people. It's easy to imagine being in better physical condition, having a more rewarding career, and enjoying more meaningful relationships. Whatever happens, you are in complete control of your response. You decide what value any event has in your life. Once you make an evaluation, you have the freedom to choose what comes next.