



LAUNCH: From left—Mr. Babatunde Osho, Chief Enterprise Solutions Officer; Mr. Akin Braithwaite, Customer Relations Executive; Mrs. Onyinye Ikenna-Emeka, General Manager, Enterprise Sales; and Mr. Oladipo Nylander, General Manager, Enterprise Marketing, all of MTN Nigeria, at the launch of MTN Mobile Ads in Lagos.

9 construction workers slaughtered in Borno

BY NDAHI MARAMA

MAIDUGURI—NINE construction workers, working on Shehu of Borno Central Mosque, Maiduguri, Borno State, were killed in the early hours of yesterday. They were report-

edly slaughtered in their sleep.

Meanwhile, some Islamic scholars have been going round Maiduguri and Jere towns with security escorts in open pick-up vans filled with the Holy Qurans and loud speakers, appealing to

the people not to kill their neighbours in the name of religion.

They warned that anybody who killed his fellow human being would equally face destruction as predicted in the Quran.

Confirming the massacre of the construction workers in a statement, the Joint Task Force, JTF Spokesman, Lt. Col. Sagir Musa, said: "Information available to JTF Operation Restore Order revealed that nine construction workers, working at the Shehu of Borno Central Mosque, were massacred by suspected terrorists at 1:45am today (yesterday)."

Sagir said the victims were living in a compound located at Bolori area of Maiduguri metropolis. He said the incident was reported to JTF at 6:05am.

Sagir added that JTF troops rushed to the area/compound and saw the dead bodies, which had been deposited at the Borno State Specialist Hospital mortuary, Maiduguri.

He said although no arrest was made, efforts were on to apprehend the culprits.

Suspected kidnapper escapes lynching in Kwara, arrested

BY DEMOLA AKINYEMI

ILOFIN—A female kidnapper, yesterday, escaped death by the whiskers as she was saved from an irate mob, which tried to lynch her at Offa, Kwara State. The woman (names withheld) was alleged to have kidnapped a school girl when the mob caught up with her.

She was rescued by some persons, who took her to the palace of the traditional ruler of Offa, Olofa, Oba Mufutau, from where she was handed over to police

at the Area Command in Omu-Aran for further investigation.

It was learnt that the middle-aged woman was allegedly a member of a kidnap syndicate that specialised in abducting school children in the town.

The suspect was said to have confessed to the people that she hails from Ede but was based in Ilesa, Osun State, with other members of the syndicate.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Olufemi Fabode, said he was yet to be briefed on the development.

Jonathan commissions locally-made bullet proof vests

BY EMEKA MAMAH

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan, yesterday, commissioned the first set of locally-made bullet proof vests by the Kaduna-based Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria, DICON.

Former President, Olusegun Obasanjo, reactivated DICON, which was established in 1964, after several years of neglect, with N1 billion grant which enabled it to start work with

the manufacturing of the Nigerian version of AK-47 rifles nicknamed OBJ-006; different types of bullets, as well as engage in fabrication of oil rigs, among other industrial components.

Speaking during the ceremony at Kakuri, Kaduna State, President Jonathan said: "I am particularly delighted to be here this morning (yesterday) at DICON, to commission the landmark Bullet Proof Vest Production facility of DICON-

MARON Nigeria Limited.

"This event marks a significant stride in DICON's commendable efforts, over the years, to effectively live up to its onerous mandate.

"As you may recall, the corporation was established by an Act of Parliament in 1964, to produce small arms and ammunitions for the use of the Nigerian Army, para-military, and security agencies in the country."