

News

1.4m children immunized in Jigawa

BY TINA AKANNAM

DUTSE—OVER 1.4 million children were immunized during the October National Immunization Programme in Jigawa State, as against the target figure of about 1.3m children, the state Commissioner for Health, Dr Tafida Abubakar has said.

Abubakar, who spoke with newsmen in his office, said the successes recorded were not unconnected with the renewed commitment of all stakeholders including religious leaders and traditional rulers in the state.

The Commissioner further said that the state government in its move the eradicate some dis-

eases also set up a task force on polio eradication with the state Deputy Governor as chairman and the Commissioner for Health serving as the secretary of the committee. Other members of the task force included representatives of development partners and the Emir of Dutse, Alhaji Dr. Nuhu Sanusi, who served as the state committee chairman on polio eradication.

His words: "There is no doubt that we recorded so much success in this month's exercise because of the collective determination of stakeholders to ensure that targeted children are immunized, and impressively, we exceeded our target."

Suswam seeks FG's intervention in Fulani, Tiv skirmishes

MAKURDI—GOVERNOR Gabriel Suswam of Benue State, has urged the Federal Government to intervene in the Fulani/Tiv land skirmishes.

Suswam made the call at a Town Hall Meeting in Makurdi on Wednesday to mark the end of his Good Governance tour in the state.

He said the greatest problem besetting rural farmers in the state was the intermittent land feud they had with some invading herdsmen. The governor advised the Federal Government to take the issue of the Fulani/Tiv crises more seriously, to enhance the growth of the peasant farmers in the state.

Responding to questions from participants at the meeting, Suswam said Benue State was a rural state and his ad-

ministration was committed to the construction of rural roads.

He dismissed insinuations that teachers in the state were being owed, adding that a staff audit of the teachers had commenced, to avoid payment to ghost teachers. He said the N18, 000 minimum wage payment to teachers would be effected as soon as the staff audit was completed.

Suswam also debunked claims that roads commissioned in the state were initiated by the previous administration.

He said: "It is a pity that a governor will be in office for eight years and cannot fix township roads, but when he leaves office, the people will begin to complain that he started township roads."

Diokpa of Umulolo passes on

DIOKPA Michael Okogwu Ofuonyeadi, the Diokpa of Umulolo village, Ibusa, Delta State, is dead, aged 85.

A statement by the family said there will be a wake-keep on Friday, November 9, at his residence in Umulolo quarters, Ibusa, to be followed the next day with traditional burial rites *Okan-ga* and interment at the same venue.

The late Diokpa Ofuonyeadi is survived by

many children including Delta State Chairman of RATTAWU, Comrade Innocent Ofuonyeadi, a senior staff of Delta Broadcasting Service, Asaba.



Late M. O. Ofuonyeadi



COWLSO CONFERENCE: From left: Mrs. Mayowa Ikuforiji, Vice Chairman, Committee of Wives of Lagos State Officials, (COWLSO); Senator Oluremi Tinubu and Mrs. Adejoke Orellope-Adefulure, Deputy Governor of Lagos State, during the opening of the 12th National Women's Conference, by COWLSO, in Lagos. Photo: Bunmi Azeez.

Death in detention: Deceased's sister alleges Police complicity

BY PETER DURU

MAKURDI—THE last may not have been heard of the sudden death of 30-year-old Terzungwe Shaakaa, a divorced father of three, in the detention cell of Benue State Police Command Headquarters in Makurdi after allegedly engaging fellow inmates in a brawl.

Elder sister of the deceased, who until his death was a mason, Christiana Nyikwagh, has alleged Police complicity in the saga and called for independent investigations into the death of her brother in a police cell.

Benue State Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Deputy Superintendent Daniel Ezeala, told newsmen last week that the deceased was arrested in Makurdi for alleged robbery and was about to face trial before his sudden death.

He said: "Shaakaa engaged his fellow cell inmates in a fight for undisclosed reasons and thereafter slumped. His fellow inmates drew the attention of the Police to his condition and he was immediately rushed to the police clinic for first aid treatment.

"When his condition was not improving, he was subsequently rushed to the Federal Medical Centre, Makurdi, where he eventually gave up

the ghost."

The PPRO further said that seven of the inmates who allegedly beat up Terzungwe to death in the cell were undergoing interrogation pending their prosecution in court.

However, when *Vanguard* spoke with some of the inmates who were alleged to have been involved in a brawl with the deceased, they denied the allegation. One Samuel Changba, who identified himself as the cell chairman and Terlum Ukilo, claimed that the deceased was not beaten up by anyone.

He said: "Though he entered the cell with wounds all over his face, he hit his head severally on the wall of the cell in protest of the alleged failure of his sister to

take him on bail. He did it repeatedly until he passed out and eventually died. Nobody touched him."

However, a new twist to the cause of the death of the late Terzungwe cropped up, midweek, when his elder sister, Christiana Nyikwagh, disclosed that before his death, Terzungwe had a misunderstanding with some policemen attached to the Criminal Investigation Department, CID, of the State Police Command, at a beer parlour on the night of October 11, 2012, at the High Level area of Makurdi, after which the police officers allegedly invited their colleagues who allegedly beat Terzungwe to stupor.

Mrs. Nyikwagh told *Vanguard* that her late

brother, who lived at 15, Balewa Street, High Level, in Makurdi, was not a robber, contrary to the allegation against him by the Police. She said her brother had returned home that fateful night after his brush with the security men only for the two policemen to trail him to his residence with other companions who pounced on him, threatening to deal with anybody who dared to come to his aid.

She, however, said she spoke with her brother in one of her failed efforts to take him on bail just as some witnesses at Balewa Crescent said that the policemen who beat the deceased to stupor were armed, hence their inability to come to his rescue for fear of being killed.

PDP chieftain donates N50m to Kogi flood victims

BY BOLUWAJI OBAHOPO

LOKOJA—A BUSINESS mogul and chieftain of People's Democratic Party, PDP, in Kogi State, Chief Jide Omokore, yesterday, donated N50 million to the state government just as Unifoam Nigeria Limited also presented 100 mattresses to the government for distribution to flood victims in the state.

The State governor, Captain Idris Wada (rtd), who received both donations, said money and other items donated would be used to rebuild, resettle and repair the houses of the victims. Wada further said that his administration remained committed to the judicious utilization of all the donations received for the flood victims.

Addressing newsmen

shortly after presenting the 100 mattresses, leader of the Unifoam delegation, Mr. Ademola Bello, said their visit was to sympathise with the victims in their period of distress.

He said: "The company is touched and that is why we are here with this gesture as part of our contribution to the flood victims which we think can help in a little way".