

Eggon
Migili

District head, 9 others burnt as Nasarawa ethnic clashes persist

...over 50 houses destroyed

BY ABEL DANIEL
ABOGONYE, Lafia

THE crisis that erupted on the early hours of Wednesday between Eggon and Migili ethnic nationalities in Agyaragu, headquarters of Jenkwe Development Area in Obi local government council of Nasarawa state entered its third day leaving the District head of Gidan Rail, Zhe Meri dead and was found in ashes when the state Deputy governor, Damishi Luka Barau led state government delegation to assess the level of damage caused by the incident amidst tight security.

Among the people burnt to ashes were two aged visually impaired women who despite their condition could not attract mercy from their attackers while they could not be whisked away by their relations when the militias who were carrying sophisticated weapons over powered them and set the house the victims

were hiding ablaze leaving them roasted.

Vanguard gathered that the District head who recently fled his ancestral domain in Gidan Rail in Ekye development area of Doma Local Government Council as a result of the on-going Fulani/Farmers crisis in the area and was taking refuge in Agyaragu finally met his death in the bloody attack.

Paramount ruler of Migili Chiefdom, Dr. Ayuba Agwadu whose palace was completely razed by the attackers had remained hostage in his home town in Musha and was later accompanied by armed Police men to Lafia, the state capital where he is taking refuge.

Our correspondent who was on the entourage of the state deputy governor observed that the attack which seems to have been well planned was targeted mostly at destroying the modern houses belonging to prominent persons in the community.

State deputy governor

who expressed shock at the level of destruction described the incident as barbaric, vowing that government would do everything possible to unravel the circumstances that led to what he further described as unfortunate development.

While appealing to the bereaved families and the displaced persons to remain calm, the deputy governor assured them of government commitment to restore peace in the area.



Rivers state Governor, Rt Hon Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi [right] welcomes Hon Kamil Akinlabi Mudashiru, chairman House of Representatives committee on Youth and Social Development to Government House, Port Harcourt, Friday.

Uduaghan presents N398.31b for 2013 budget

BY AUSTIN OGWUDA,
Asaba

DELTA State Governor, Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan, on Thursday presented a budget proposal of N398.31 billion for the 2013 fiscal year. A breakdown of the figure shows that N145.94 is for recurrent expenditure while N252.37 is for capital expenditure. The 2013 budget is lower than this year's budget of N437.21 billion by N38.9 billion.

Uduaghan however announced the setting up of what he described as a "self-evaluation process," to appraise the performances of his commissioners. Presenting the budget, Governor Uduaghan said, "the reality of the need for us to build Delta State beyond oil is becoming more evident by the day. In the past few months, our oil revenue has dwindled drastically resulting in adopting stiffer financial measures."

"Mr. Speaker, Delta

State is being repositioned. I am glad to let you know that what we have embarked upon is a process which is unique to Delta State and Nigeria, in the sense that it is a self-evaluation process, not dictated by anybody, but by ourselves because at this point in

time, there is no proper accountability in the governance of Nigerians.

"The Delta State Economic Dashboard we have recently put in place is a traffic-like methodology where we look at all the sectors, the ministries, departments and agencies and subject

them to a rigorous level of scrutiny and come out periodically with a result on their performance. It also facilitates coordination, and enables each MDA see how they fit into the overall objectives of growing the economy."

Mark visits Saraki's family

- Says late Saraki was a bridge builder
- E.K Clark pays condolence

BY HENRY UMORU,
Abuja

SENATE President David Mark described the late second republic Senate Leader, Senator Abubakar Olusola Saraki as a bridge builder who united Nigerians irrespective of tribe, faith and politics. This statement came even as Chief E.K Clark also extolled the virtues of the late statesman.

Speaking on Thursday when he paid a condolence visit on the

scion of the Saraki family, Senator Bukola Saraki and the governor of Kwara state, Alhaji Abdulfatai Ahmed in Ilorin, Senate President Mark urged Nigerians to emulate the legacies of late Saraki which was built on integrity and honour.

In a statement by his special Adviser, Media and Publicity, Kola Ologbondiyan, Senate President Mark said, "the Oloye never acted nor pretended in any vocation he engaged in. He lived naturally and

brought up people in politics and other areas of our lives.

"We should not mourn him as if he died without a legacy rather today's pretenders on the political scene should learn to live naturally and leave behind legacies that would form guiding principles for the younger generations."

In his own condolence Chief E.K Clark expressed shock and sadness on the sudden passing on of Senator Olusola Saraki, the father of Kwara politics.

Suspected kidnappers threaten Tompolo's top adviser

BY EMMA AMAIZE,
Warri

SUSPECTED kidnappers in Warri, Delta State, have threatened to abduct Mr. Paul Bebenimibo, an activist and top adviser of ex-militant leader, Government Ekpeumupolo, alias Tompolo.

The supposed kidnappers in a text message from a GSM line, 08153979335, to the activist, accused him of not releasing an undisclosed amount of money that Tompolo allegedly asked him to disburse to them.

They said he was giving them between N200 and N500 and vowed to abduct his wife and children if they failed to get him.

Speaking to Saturday Vanguard, the activist confirmed that he received the threat message from suspected

kidnappers, saying, "I do know them and what they are saying is not true"

However, Mr. Bebenimibo called on the Federal Government not to cancel the pipelines surveillance contract awarded to Tompolo in the state, saying that hundreds of youths have been employed by Oil Facility Surveillance Limited, OFSL, which was executing the contract and that terminating it, could spell trouble crisis worse than what the Islamic sect, Boko Haram, was causing now. His words, "President Jonathan should not contemplate cancelling the contract, rather, he should renew it because it has helped in his transformation agenda in Delta state. Oil production, which dropped to 700,000 barrels before has increased to 2.7 billion barrels in the region.

Oil subsidy scam: Implement Ribadu's report, community leader urges FG

BY FESTUS AHOON,
Ughelli

Community leader in Olomoro, Isoko South Local Government Area, Delta State, Dr. Oscar Odueni has urged the Federal Government to implement Mallam Nuhu Ribadu's report on subsidy scam.

Odueni, who spoke to

newsmen, on Thursday insisted that the report should not be swept under the carpet and decried the high rate of corruption and fraud among those in positions of authority in the country.

According to him, the Ribadu report had shown how certain individuals had allegedly siphoned the wealth of the nation

into their private pockets, adding that those indicted by the report should be brought to book to serve as deterrent to others.

He said; "The oil subsidy Cabals should not be treated as sacred cows. If Mr. President is serious in fighting corruption, he should punish those indicated no

matter how highly placed they are."

Speaking further, he decried the deplorable condition of the East-West road, lamenting that "the Niger Delta region which produces over 80 percent of Nigeria's wealth and Olomoro which has 36 oil wells have not had their fair share in terms of development."