

# Saturday NEWS

## Hunger: Boko Haram kills three commuters, issues threat letters to traders

•As Borno records 14 cases of Polio virus

BY NDAHI MARAMA,  
Maiduguri

**F**OLLOWING the dislodgement of Boko Haram camps in some parts of Borno State by troops which had forced many of the terrorists to scavenge for food to eat from villagers, the terrorists have resorted to armed robbery activities against innocent civilians killing three passengers after collecting unspecified amount of cash and food items from their victims along Bama-Banki road.

This is even as intelligence information available to the newly established Headquarters of 7 Division, Nigerian Army, Maiduguri indicated that the terrorists have written threat letters to Dikwa Market/Traders demanding N1 million to enable them purchase food items and other logistical requirement or be ready to face deadly attacks.

These were contained in a press statement emailed to Journalists yesterday by the Acting Spokesman of the 7 Div, Nigerian Army, Lieutenant Colonel Sagir Musa in Maiduguri, the state capital.

Sagir in the statement said, "at about 11:35 hours on 13th September, 2013, some troops of Banki Forward Operating Base (BFOB) on a mission of 202 Battalion Bama, on their way back to Banki, a border town with Cameroun Republic encountered some Boko Haram terrorists along Bama-Banki road carrying out armed robbery activities on innocent traders and travelers. The terrorists had killed 3 passengers and collected unspecified amount of cash and food items during the robbery.

"Consequently, several terrorists also lost their lives during the chanced encounter with the troops. Similarly, intelligence available to the 7 Division indicated that in desperation to survive, the Boko Haram terrorists have written a letter to Dikwa Market/Traders demanding N1 million to enable them purchase food items and other lo-

gistical requirements or be ready to face their wrath". Sagir stated in the statement.

Meanwhile, the sect's insurgency has been identified as the factor responsible for the recent rise in the cases of poliomyelitis in Borno State.

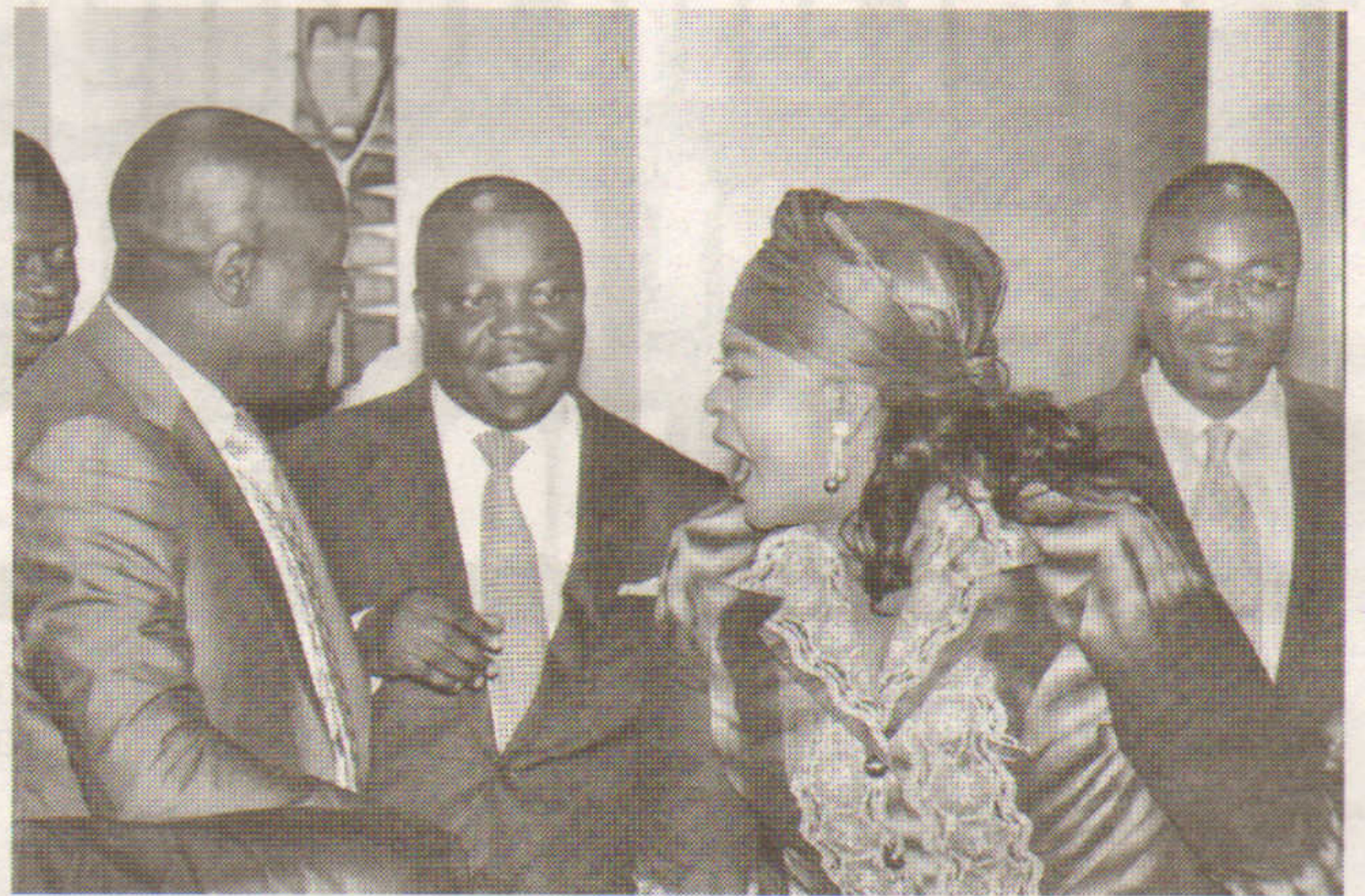
The state, with 14 cases, the highest in the country, according to the Borno State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Salma Anas-Kolo was impeded in the fight against polio as a result of insecurity in many parts of the state which made it hard for health workers to immunize children in the state.

Anas-Kolo disclosed yesterday at a sensitization programme for traditional leaders in the state that Borno has 14 cases of polio out of the nation's 37 and the global 44 cases. She said that the sensitization programme became imperative in order to meet the 2014 World Health Organisation (WHO) target of freeing the globe of polio.

The commissioner, who explained that Maiduguri was picked for the kick off of the sensitization programme because it recorded the highest cases of six in the state

with the neighbouring council having four cases, said it was not all a sad story as the incidences could have been higher but for the dedication of health workers that withstood the insecurity and went to some areas to get children immunized.

The Shehu of Borno, Alhaji Abubakar Ibn Garbai Al-Amin Elkane-mi, who hosted the sensitization programme at his palace, called on his subjects to allow their children from 0-5 years to take immunization vaccine against the five killer diseases.



R-L: Special Adviser Projects Monitoring and Evaluation to the President, Prof. Sylvester Monye; Aviation Minister, Princess Stella Oduah; Gov Emmanuel Uduaghan of Delta State and Sports Minister, Bolaji Abdullahi during the Presidential reception for Blessing Okagbare at the Aso Chambers, Presidential Villa, Abuja...recently Photo by Abayomi Adeshida

## My father's agitation paved way for Jonathan's Presidency — Melford Okilo's daughter

•Jonathan, Shagari, Ekwueme, Dangote others to celebrate late Rivers Gov

BY JOHN BOSCO  
AGBAKWURU, Abuja

**T**HE late one time governor of Rivers State, Chief Melford Okilo might have died as a fulfilled man following the revelation that his agitation for a Nigerian president of South-South extraction paved the way for the emergence of President Goodluck Jonathan.

The daughter of the late former Governor of Rivers State and United States-

based Attorney, Dr. Eluana Okilo who disclosed this yesterday in Abuja said that her father was a bridge-builder whose efforts in uniting the country was instrumental to the emergence of President Jonathan from the minority part of the country.

Describing her father as a great nationalist, Dr. Okilo said the former Rivers State Chief executive died a happy man because even on his sick bed, he was fulfilled that his dreams for a minority

President was fulfilled with Jonathan's Presidency.

The US-based Attorney who is a member of the Steering Committee of Melford Okilo Foundation in a press briefing to herald the public presentation of a book entitled - "Okilo: Biography of a Bridge Builder" written by a civil rights activist, Mr. Marshall Okon and a fund raising for Chief Melford Okilo Centre called on Nigerians to support the President in

his transformation agenda.

According to her, with the emergence of President Jonathan, the gap had been filled as the South-South was no longer marginalized.

She said, "On a very personal note, when my father was sick and ailing, he was reminiscing on Nigeria's history. With his old sentiments, I believe that the gap for which my father had been yearning has been filled with the Presidency of Dr. Goodluck Jonathan because he was specifically thrilled with joy that the Niger Delta has in fact produced somebody that has now ended up in Aso Rock.

"So, for my father that gap was filled, even though our environmental and economic issues in the Niger Delta have continued to be a source of concern. In keeping with my father's joy that the gap for which he has been clamoring has been filled with Jonathan's Presidency, there can be more bridge to be laid.

"If we want to honour the contribution of my father, all Nigerians need unification and support for Jonathan. Although toes may be stepped on, right now is the time to support our South-South President because it is in keeping with bridge building to unite our nation which was his absolute legacy."

## Police rescue NURTW kidnap victim in royal father's palace

•2 suspects held

BY EMMA AMAIZE,

**A** National Union of Road Transport Workers, NURTW, member, Bernard Oyeogun, kidnapped, Wednesday, by a rival faction in Agbor, Delta State, has been rescued by the police from

the palace of a royal father, (names withheld), where he was unlawfully held for one night.

Saturday Vanguard was informed, yesterday, that the Divisional Police Officer, DPO, in the area, who acted on a tip-off, stormed the palace with policemen on Thursday and unchained the victim.

He was battered by his captors and there was fear, yesterday, that he might go blind.

There has been a simmering dispute between two factions of the union in the area and a source confided to *Saturday Vanguard* that the national executive of the union dissolved the chapter, yes-

terday afternoon, after it was briefed on the development.

The royal father was said to be away from his palace when the incident occurred, but he, allegedly, has sympathy for one of the rival factions. However, two persons, aged 31 and 41 years respectively have been arrested in connection with the incident.

Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Delta State, Lucky Uyabame, confirmed the incident and arrest of two persons to *Saturday Vanguard*.

He said the Divisional Police Officer, Agbor, led his patrol team to the palace of the monarch, where they found the victim, who was assaulted and taken hostage from the Agbor-Ogwashi-Uku motor park, Agbor by three members of the rival group.

## Heavy rains kill baby, destroy 100 houses in Zamfara

**A** five-year-old girl died following heavy rains which also destroyed not less than 100 houses with many people injured at Magami-maitarko village in Gusau local government area of Zamfara State.

One of the victims, Malam Adamu Sarkin-Fawa, who is also the father of the deceased, told newsmen in Magami

village yesterday that the incident occurred in the early hours of Wednesday.

According to Sarkin-Fawa, farm produce, the value of which had yet to be determined, were destroyed in the downpour that lasted more than 10 hours.

He said that the victims were currently squatting with relatives while those injured were receiving medical

attention at various hospitals.

Sarkin-Fawa, therefore, appealed to all tiers of government to provide assistance to the victims to give them succour and ensure quick recovery.

When contacted, Alhaji Atiku Maradun, the Executive Secretary of the state's Emergency Management Agency (ZEMA), confirmed the incident.