

# 15 killed in fresh Borno village market attack

BY NDAHI MARAMA

**M** AIDUGURI — NO fewer than 15 people, including traders, were killed, yesterday, when some suspected members of Boko Haram terrorists stormed a local market in Daku village in Askira Uba Local Government Area of Borno State and set ablaze several shops, houses, vehicles and motorcycles.

Askira Uba is about 190 kilometres from Maiduguri, the state capital and shares boundaries with Biu, Chibok, Gwoza and Hawul council areas that have witnessed series of deadly attacks and killings in recent past.

*Vanguard* gathered from reliable sources that the gunmen, numbering more than 20 and armed with AK-47 rifles, Improvised Explosive Devices, IEDs and petrol bombs invaded the market square on motorcycles and a Hilux Toyota vehicle at 11 am and opened fire on traders, killing 15. The gunmen also carted away food items, unspecified amount of money before fleeing towards the Sambisa forest.

A local petty trader who gave his name as Bulus Gadzama said he had to abandon his wares and run for safety.

He said: "I have to give thank to God almighty for sparing my life today. I just finished my church service at about 10:00am. I then proceeded to the market after dropping my Holy Bible at home, and all of a sudden after displaying my wares, we started hearing sounds of gunshots and explosions which forced everybody to scamper for safety.

"It was when the attackers fled before some of us summoned courage to go to the scene of the

incident. It was then we realised that over 15 people were killed. Most of the shops in the market were set ablaze after looting food items."

Also, a Maiduguri resident who hails from Daku and lost one of his friends in the inci-

dent, confirmed the attack, explaining that he received a call from the village that one of his close friends, who went shopping for his wife that just gave birth last week, was among those killed.

Contacted for confirmation, the

Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Gideon Jubrin, could not be reached on phone, but a top Police officer, who was not authorised to talk to the press confirmed the incident, saying many people were killed while no arrest was made.



*From left: Mr. Julian Norford, Chief Operating Officer, Jabo Industries; Mr. Haziq Beg, Chief Operating Officer, IL&FS Energy; Mr. Oti Ikomi, Executive Vice Chairman, Proton Energy Ltd and Prof. Chinedu Nebo, Minister of Power, during a courtesy visit by the management staff of Proton Energy Ltd & International Consortium Team to the Minister of Power in Abuja on the development of 500MW power plant.*

## 24-point demand: Doctors issue 14-day ultimatum

BY CHIOMA OBINNA & GABRIEL OLAWALE

**L** AGOS—TOTAL collapse of healthcare services in the country is imminent as the Nigerian Medical Association, NMA, yesterday threatened to shut down health

care system if the Federal Government fails to meet their 24-point demand by July 1.

This came on the heels of earlier 30-day ultimatum issued by members of the Joint Health Sector Unions & Assembly of Health Care Professionals, JOHESU/AHPA, to the Federal government over unresolved

eration, upward review of clinical duty allowance for honorary consultants and hazard allowance, immediate release of circular on rural posting, teaching and other allowances, immediate withdrawal of the CBN circular authorising the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN)

## Ex-militants move to free Okah, others

BY SONI DANIEL

**A** BUJA — FORMER Niger Delta militants have begun moves aimed at stalling the trial of the alleged mastermind of the October 2010 bomb blast in Abuja, Henry Okah, and the release of those already convicted for the deadly act.

Already, the ex-militants under the aegis of The Leadership, Peace and Cultural Development Initiative (LPCDI), a forum of leaders of former agitators in the Niger Delta, have made a passionate appeal to the Federal Government to consider a review of the ongoing trial of Mr Charles Okah and the conviction of Mr Edmund Ebiware, who was sentenced to life imprisonment over the October 1, 2010 bombing.

The group in a release signed by its president, 'Pastor' Reuben Wilson, and made available to *Vanguard* last night, urged the government to explore a political solution towards reviewing the conviction of Mr Henry Okah by the South African authorities over the same incident in Abuja.

This appeal is on the heels of the visit by the Presidential Committee on Prerogative of Mercy to some prisons in the country in order to grant amnesty to suspects incarcerated for various offences by the federal authorities.

The group's action is also coming in the wake of the ceasefire declared by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), who have accepted to dialogue with the Federal Government through the Spe-