

4 killed, 32 kidnapped in 2 months on Delta bridge — *Ex-NLC boss*

2 By Victor Ahiuma-Young

A former Vice President of Nigeria, a Labour Congress, NLC and immediate past President-General, Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria, MWUN, Tony Nted, yesterday, said four persons were killed, while 32 others were kidnapped on Ibada Elume Bridge, Sapele, Delta State, in the last two months.

Nted lamented that in the last two months no fewer than 36 persons were kidnapped on the bridge with four casualties.

He said: "I suspect the

kidnappings had been going on in that area before March this year. It was the kidnap of a labour leader in Warri ports, Delta State that opened our eyes to the activities of these deadly kidnapping gangs perceived to be herders and their collaborators.

"Samson Pere, one of the labour leaders at the Warri ports, and five others were kidnapped by suspected herdsman on March 5 and released on March 8 after paying a ransom.

"Pere and his co-victims were beaten with cutlasses, and almost killed. Pere's hands were almost severed by about eight armed men with AK-47 rifles suspected to be herdsman who kidnapped them.

"Three days after Pere and others

were released, precisely, on March, 11, 17 persons were also kidnapped. On April 3, five persons were kidnapped. On April 7, eight persons were kidnapped. Unfortunately, four of them were killed probably because of their inability to pay the ransom demanded.

"All these kidnappings took place same place, at Ibada Elume Bridge close to Sapele, Delta State. The number of persons kidnapped on that bridge from March till today is 36, including the four killed.

"This is not good enough and indeed, it is unacceptable. If the government cannot secure us and our valuables from kidnappers and other criminal elements, the government should at least, permit us to carry guns to defend and secure ourselves."