

FROM THE STATES

# Leave Hotels, Return Home

## ...Sylva Orders Chairpersons, Meet Sylva Today

Following series of allegations of continued stay by some council chairmen in Bayelsa State in posh hotels, poor performance and so on, instead of staying put in their respective domains to reel out democratic dividends, the Bayelsa State Governor, Chief Timipre Sylva has summoned the 8 female chairpersons in the state to a meeting in Government House, Yenegoa today.

The Governor has asked the Caretaker Chairpersons to return to their home fronts wondering how an

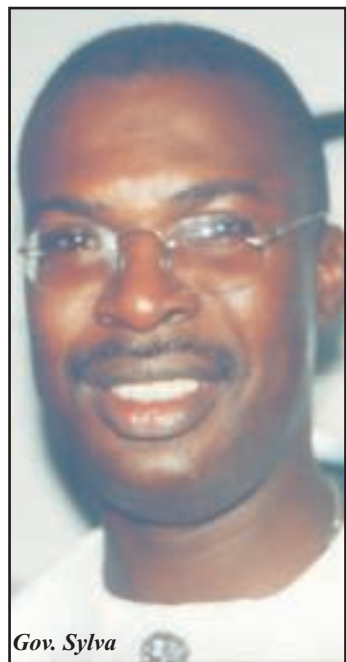
**BAYELSA**

L.G chairpersons could effectively govern his/her council from elsewhere instead of the headquarters since local governments are mostly grass-root oriented.

Since the women came on board as caretaker chairperson, there are pockets of serious allegations bothering on poor performances and worst still, the allegation of converging to a location instead of the secretariats by principal officers of the councils to share money once federal allocations come every month, *Beam checks* gathered.

This development have allegedly angered Gov. Sylva whom a lot of people say believes in transparency to vow to deal with the erring council chairmen who refuse to abide by the new directives of government to return to their domain.

There are indications also that the allegation of financial recklessness by these



Gov. Sylva

chairpersons might be extensively discussed during the meeting scheduled today with the Governor and the L.G chairperson.

Governor Sylva stated thus during his weekly live programme on radio: "A local government chairman that is not at home is not fit to be a local government chairman. I've been getting a lot of complaints about this chairpersons".

Sources close to some of the L.G chairpersons however revealed to this publication that some of them preferred to stay in Yenegoa to run the affairs of their councils instead of their domains citing security reasons for their actions.

Apart from the monthly federal allocations, investigations reveal that the councils allegedly get over N127 million monthly from the government to help offset salaries and

# Babatope Is A Nuisance

## ...AC Urges I.G To Caution Him

The Action Congress (AC), in Ekiti State has asked the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Mike Okiro to caution the former Minister of Transport during late Gen. Sanni Abacha junta, Chief Ebenezar Babatope for allegedly trying to foster a violent type of politics in the state. The statement which was sent to newsmen and duly signed by the spokesman of the party in the state, Mr. Yemi Adaramodu categorically stated that an elder statesman of

Chief Babatope's stature who is not even from Ekiti State could involve himself in such destructive politics though having his roots from Osun State and even neck-deep in the current political problems in Osun.

The statement was quoted as saying: "We want to alert the Inspector-General of Police, the Commissioner of Police in Ekiti State Mr. Chris Ola and the entire public of the plan by the former Transport Minister in the inglorious regime of late General Sanni Abacha, Chief Ebenezar Babatope, to import the politics of destruction that he

foisted on Osun State during the last election in 2007 into Ekiti State.

It is surprising that the failed politician, who has no political base, is being glorified by the leadership of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), when in its desperation for the soul of Ekiti, nominated him as a member of its squad to consolidate on the party's fraudulent hold on the state".

The statement further warned Chief Babatope to desist forthwith from such vicious politics as he did during Abacha regime and seek a genuine



Gov. Mimiko

# Oshiomhole Picks In Edo Budget

## ...Refuses To Assent To Appropriation Bill

Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, the Edo State Governor last week refused to assent to the 2009 appropriation bill as presented and passed by the State House of Assembly.

His reasons according to him stems from the fact that, quoting him, "if I approve of this bill, it will strictly negate my administration's commitment targeted towards only the execution of programmes that are meant to directly impact on the lives of the citizenry".

In direct disagreement to

what the House expected after passing the budget, the Governor insisted that there was no going back on the set plans of the administration's intentions to expand to six lanes the Airport Road and

**Edo**

Ugbowo-Lagos Road in the capital.

While receiving the executive members of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE) at the State House Comrade Oshiomhole emphatically told his guests

that he was in office to serve the wish of the people and not that of those in the House of Assembly.

However, while passing the 2009 bill last week, the House of Assembly had reduced it by N5 billion.

The reason being that the state was indebted and so it would be very extraneous to impose an unbearable debt portfolio on it.

It had summarily reduced the bill from the original N24.5 billion to N20.2 billion before presenting it to Oshiomhole for assent.



Gov. Oshiomhole

# Police Recover N30million Ransom

## ...Kill 6, Rescue Lebanese

A whopping sum of over thirty million naira ransom was recovered over the weekend in Victoria Island, Lagos by men of the Nigerian Police after gunning down a six-man gang of kidnappers that were said to have abducted a middle aged Lebanese who works in one of the well-known blue chip firms in Lagos.

Mr. Marvel Akpoyibo, Lagos State Police Commissioner who was on an official visit to Abuja during the foiling of the abduction, had to rush down to his Lagos office at Ozumba

Mbadiwe St, Victoria Island upon getting wind of the incident, *Beam Checks* gathered.

Addressing newsmen for the commendable gallantry exhibited by his men, the Lagos CP

**LAGOS**

disclosed that the Lebanese whose identity remained undisclosed was reported abducted in his office and that a Manager of the Lebanese Company, Mr. Mohammed Sani delivered the N30million ransom to one of the sea shores in Lagos as directed by the dare devil abductors who stormed

swiftly in speed boats to collect their booty and in that event, some well-armed policemen who laid ambush nearby rounded the kidnappers and took them by surprise.

The CP further went on: "We then handed the money over to the Manager. After they collected the money, we tactically engaged them and rescued the captain, he was unhurt and during the battle we recovered N30 million ransom. We will not leave any stone unturned to ensure that Lagos displays zero-tolerance for crime".

The Manager of the Lebanese

company however expressed gratitude to the efforts galvanized by the Lagos Police Command in rescuing their staff and reinstated the company's readiness to "support the command to carry out their duties".

The remains of the abductors who were wrapped in red and white pieces of clothing materials were said to have been conveyed to a mortuary in a police van with registration number XR 866 PKY and the huge sums of money contained in two 'ghana-must-go' bags in N1000, N500, and N200 denominations.

# 11 Ex-Soldiers Nabbed For Drug Related Offences

Officials of the Military Pensions Board have arrested 11 ex-military officers who apart from collecting their monthly pension benefits also indulge in the nefarious act of peddling drugs mostly under bridges and overhead crossing in the Federal Capital Territory, FCT.

Parading these drug merchants who specialize in selling hemp before the chairman of the military pensions Board, Brig-Gen. Bitrus Kwaji condemned the behaviour of the ex-soldiers

stating that it was shameful and embarrassing not only to the Nigerian Armed Forces that trained such officers but the Board that has made it possible to get their benefits and as at when due.

Admonishing a set of ex-soldiers turned drug barons who were picked up under Wuse Bridge, Brig-Gen. Kwaji said: "The Federal Government, the Ministry of Defence and the pensions Board have done everything to take care of your problems and you have all been paid

regularly. Yet you refuse to go home.

We have told you that if any of you has any problem with the collection of his pension, you should leave the bridge and come to us to sort the problem".

Brig-Gen. Kwaji further went on: "it is now becoming obvious to us that you have

been deceiving the public as to why you have refused to go back to your states or villages. That is because you are engaged in this illegal

business".

The chairman of the Board equally told the drug peddlers that they would be handed over to the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA for onward prosecution to teach others still hanging under the bridges doing such illegal things to desist".

The army general stated that he would partner with the FCT to get them off the bridges and send them back to their respective states.

# Yar'Adua Rescues Alma Mata

## ...N5b Facilities Underway

In line with the Federal Government's 7-point Agenda, President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua has once more re-energized his belief in the importance of education as a necessary tool for the upliftment of Nigeria's economy.

The President made this known in Keffi, Nasarawa State during the "60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Government College, Keffi" which incidentally was then president's alma mata. Alhaji Yar'Adua led other old boys of the institution to commission a gigantic school auditorium, E-learning center, and other state-of-the-art educational facilities costing hundreds of millions of naira. He urged other alumni associations all over the country to emulate Government College, Keffi Old Boys Association that built the facilities through public private partnership Initiative,

PPP. The President said: "We are reinforcing and repositioning our stand in education as a force to reckon with in the global economy by upgrading our facilities, enhancing teaching, learning and giving accelerated impetus to research and technology".

Speaking during the event, the

Governor of Nasarawa State, Alhaji Akwe Doma reiterated that education is a vital tool in the socio-economic development of any nation which any nation could not afford to neglect and eulogized the laudable initiatives of the alumni association of the college.

Government College, Keffi

**Nasarawa**

**YOBE**

# Teachers Paid New Salary Wages

The Yobe State Government has gone ahead to initiate moves towards payment of the new teacher's salary scale (TSS).

This is sequel to the Governor's approval on Thursday of the release of

N200 million for the implementation of the 27.5 percent Teacher's Salary Scale (TSS).

The Governor, Ibrahim Geidan stated on Thursday that he took the step to avert any row between

Kaduna Province but was later moved down to Keffi in 1951. a lot of prominent Nigerians including the president were educated there Several millions of naira were realized during the anniversary wile plans are underway according to Alhaji Ari Gwaska spokesman of Keffi Government College Old Boys Association to embarking on another N5 billion intervention fund for the upliftment of the institution's infrastructure.

organized labour and his government.

On the heels of this development therefore, the Governor charged the Teachers to rise up to the challenges of expected improved productivity in the education