



L-R: Chairman, Partners for Electoral Reform, Comrade Eze Nwagu; Director, Voters Education and Publicity, INEC, Oluwale Osaze-Uzzi; Executive Director, Conscience Nigeria, Comrade Tosin Adetanju and a newspaper columnist, Majeed Dahiru, during a round-table on emerging issues of the forthcoming governorship election in Ondo state, Abuja on Monday. PHOTO:NAN

You can't suspend me, monarch tells *Deji* of Akure

OJO OYEWAMIDE
AKURE

Asinigbo of Isinigbo community in Akure North Local Government Area of Ondo State, Oba Samuel Elewaju, said the *Deji* of Akure, Oba Aladetoyinbo Ogunlade-Aladelusi, has no authority to suspend him as the traditional ruler of the community.

Oba Aladetoyinbo had in a letter dated September 9, 2016, suspended the traditional ruler of Isinigbo from office.

The Asinigbo was alleged to have conducted himself in a manner that brought disrepute to the traditional institution.

Oba Elewaju was also accused of dishonouring invitation of the committees set up to investigate the allegations preferred against him by the Ayetoro community.

"All these actions have brought contempt and disrespect to His Imperial Majesty, *Deji* and paramount ruler of Akureland.

"Consequently, you are hereby suspended and you are also to stop parading yourself as the Olu of Isinigbo forthwith. I am to add that this suspension is with immediate effect.

"A copy of this letter shall be sent to His Royal Majesty, Oba Oluwadare Agunbiade, the Oloba

of Oba-Ile, who shall direct that your stipend be stopped forthwith.

"A copy of this letter shall also be sent to the chairman, Council of Olus, Akure North Local Government Area, to declare your seat vacant for your deviant attitude to the revered institution of the *Deji* of Akureland," Oba Aladetoyinbo wrote in the letter.

But in his reply to the *Deji*'s letter, Oba Elewaju claimed he was not under the authority of the Akure monarch, saying the suspension order had no effect on him.

The reply, written by Adeleye Rotimi on behalf of the 100-year-old tradi-

tional ruler, said: "As you may know sir, I am an Oba just as you are and under the supervision of the Akure North Local Government.

"My authority as an Oba is over Isinigbo and the people therein. I also have chiefs from different quarters of Isinigbo who assist me in the smooth administration of the good people of Isinigbo.

"In view of the above, please note that I am not under your authority as I am not within the Akure City. Hence, I hereby state that your letter of September 9, 2016 is of no effect on me. My suspension is therefore null and void and of no effect."

Illegal oil export: Court rejects Total's request to bar journalists

WALE IGBINTADE

A Federal High Court in Lagos Tuesday refused an application filed by Total E&P Nigeria Plc, asking the court to bar journalists from covering and reporting proceedings in the case of alleged illegal oil export filed by the Federal Government against the multinational oil company.

The trial judge, Justice Mojisola Olatoregun, in her ruling, dismissed the application, stating that she could not bar journalists from performing

their duty in court.

Federal Government had sued Total E&P Nigeria Plc, alleging that the oil company under-declared the volume of crude oil it shipped out of the country between January 2011 and December 2014.

Federal Government accused the oil company of short-changing it to the tune of \$245,258,640 by allegedly shipping several barrels of crude oil out of the country without making due remittance to the government.

But, Total, through its lawyer, Babatunde Fagbohunlu (SAN), in an appli-

cation, urged the court to bar journalists from covering and reporting the proceedings.

He had argued that the media reports made it appear as if his client had already been found guilty of the allegations levelled against it by the Federal Government.

Fagbohunlu had argued that the media reports were pre-judging the case.

But in her short ruling yesterday, Justice Olatoregun dismissed the application, stating that she couldn't bar journalists from performing their duty in court.

She reminded the counsel that the court was a public place, which was open to journalists. She however warned journalists to always report accurately.

The court had on September 30, 2016 dismissed a preliminary objection filed by Total, urging the court to dismiss the Federal Government's suit for failing to disclose a reasonable cause of action.

Meanwhile, the court also granted an application by the Federal Government to amend its pleadings in the case.

Miyetti Allah, VGN hold peace parley

Trepo Local Government Area of Oyo State recently held peace initiatives among cattle breeders association of Nigeria (MIYETTI ALLAH) and vigilante group of Nigeria. The peace parley which is an ongoing event took place in Kishi with state chairman of Miyetti Allah, Alhaji Yakubu Bello, State Commander of VGN Comrade S.A Olayide, Commissioner of Police represented by Kishi divisional Police Officer, Security Service Officers and Civil Defence Corps. Also in attendance are traditional rulers as well as Serikis of both Hausa and Fulani communities in the area.

In his opening remark, Alhaji Yakubu Bello traced the genesis of the peace initiative to constant reports of criminal activities being leveled against Fulanis across the country which became very constant shortly after President Muhammadu Buhari was sworn in. Being the grand patron of the association of cattle breeders in the country, the President immediately held meetings with the national leadership of the association and mandated them to find a lasting solution to the problem, the result of which we are now seeing.

The Chairman thereafter inaugurated a security committee for the Local Government area whose mandate is to ensure that there is peace within the local government area between the Hausa/Fulani communities and their hosts.

In his own address the state commander of VGN, Comrade S.A. Olajide thanked the state chairman of Miyetti Allah for the initiative. He said that with the assistance of the police and other security agencies, Miyetti Allah and VGN are gradually getting rid of criminal elements in Oyo State. He said though robbery and kidnapping is gradually becoming a thing of the past, it is not over yet until when peace is achieved between farmers and Fulani herdsmen. He however advised the Serikis to give up anyone in their community they know is a criminal to avoid the embarrassment their arrest might cause them.

Finally, he said crime cannot be committed in Isolation; there must be collaborators among members of their host communities, he warned Yoruba leaders not to shield their people from the laws.

Group tasks women on scourge of breast cancer

A non-governmental organisation, Health Education and Empowerment Initiative, HEEDEN, has expressed regret that many Nigerian women are victims of cancer as a result of ignorance about the killer disease.

This regret was expressed by the executive director of the organisation, Mrs. Folasade Ofurune, in a press statement issued after an enlightenment programme by HEEDEN at Oniyoyo community, Robiyan, Ife Local Government Area of Ogun State.

Ofurune said the organisation had found out in the course of its enlightenment campaign that many women remained unaware of cancer and the danger that comes with it.

Her words: "It is regrettable that despite the ongoing campaigns on cancer, many women are unaware of the killer disease. That is why we have contin-

ued to intensify efforts at spreading the news and educating women generally on how to discover cancer at the early stage and move against it.

"The World Health Organisation, WHO, has said one in every eight women is at risk of having breast cancer in her lifetime and that makes the awareness and diagnosis of breast cancer very compelling and with constancy."

Ofurune added that the fear of the organisation was also confirmed by some of those at the programme who declared that they had never heard about the killer disease until the campaign.

Ofurune highlighted the need for Breast Self Examination, BSE, noting that early detection saves lives.

She urged women to engage in regular breast self-examination after their monthly period and report any unusual sign to a doctor.