

Ondo debunks oil facility blast report... asks FG to investigate source of falsehood

The Ondo State government has described the report of a blast in an oil facility in the riverine area of the state in the [Nigeria Tribune](#) of Tuesday August 3, as totally false, dangerous and patently tendentious. Mr. Ranti Akerele, the Commissioner for Information, in a statement yesterday said the report which was used only by [The Tribune](#) has no bearing, at all, with any recent occurrence in the Area.

The Tribune had reported that “a group of armed men [on Sunday night](#), blew up an oil facility belonging to Chevron Nigeria limited (CNL) at Ewan in Ilaje [Local Government Area of Ondo State](#).” The report also said a group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

“We have carried out investigations, interacted with oil companies operating in the area and have confirmed from security agencies that there was no attack on any oil facility and or the facilities of any oil company in Ondo State as speciously reported in the Tribune of the said day.

“Chevron, whose facility was allegedly attacked, has denied in categorical terms, that no such attack occurred on any of its facilities. Where then did this satanic incisive news emanate from?

We are forced to ask. “We believe such a report could up-end the security and peace prevailing in that area and indeed other areas of the state if allowed to go without a categorical rebuttal, hence this clarification” Akerele said.

Speaking on the possible implication of such a report, he said the hugely successful amnesty programme of the federal government is by such a false publication being dismissed as a failure and that a wrong vibe about the stability of the state and indeed the country is by such a report being sent.

“Government recalls that just when it was settling down after re-claiming its mandate early last year, a false report of the sighting in the coastal area of Tom Polo, then a run-away leader of one of the [militant groups](#), was made which was in its entirety false and intended to create fear and portray Ondo State as the den of militant activities. Now that we have an amnesty

programme in place, we hope this is not just one of the tactics of those opposed to the peace of the land to paint a picture of insecurity and lawlessness in Ondo State.

“That a spurious list of demands was attached to the false blast story tells vividly the sinister motive of the people behind the hoax, Akerele said. Speaking further on what the Ondo government expects in the light of the report, Akerele said the state demands a full investigation of the report by security agencies. Coming immediately after last Saturday defeat of the PDP in the re-run election in Ilaje Constituency II of the State, Government also hopes, the report is not a loser’s tactics by the opposition after the third defeat in a row.

In another development, the State Government has described the reported withdrawal of the license of the Ondo State University of Science and Technology, Okitipupa as an exercise that will not fundamentally affect the fortunes of the institution.

Mr. Ranti Akerele, the Commissioner for Information, while speaking to newsmen in Akure yesterday said the announcement of the withdrawal rather than being a setback is an impetus to finalize arrangements to bring the university fully on board.

“The [University Council](#) is soon to be inaugurated after which the final push to take off will commence. Having plugged all the drain pipes through which public funds was being siphoned in the university; government is set to bring to reality the original dream behind its promise of a befitting institution for the state in the southern senatorial zone.”

“It is regrettable that a lot of time has been wasted in rectifying the intentional mistakes of the immediate past era, where the university was seen as a means of diverting public funds. We are now in the era of carrying out deliberate scalable developments on the site that will lead to concrete results within a very short period. This way, the doors of the university can indeed be open for students in the next session.