

PFN Assures Northerners in S-West of Safety

Vanguard

IBADAN— PENTECOSTAL Fellowship of Nigeria, PFN, has assured Northerners in the South West not to panic as Christians in the zone will not attack them because of faith or geographical area of origin.

Vice-President, South-West zone, of PFN, Bishop Wale Oke who spoke in Ibadan yesterday, condemned the attacks on Christians in the north saying it was a mere deception to say that the aggression of Boko Haram sect against Christians did not have any Islamic colouration.

Describing Northerners in the South West as fellow brothers, the cleric assured them that despite the senseless killings and provocation against Christians by Boko Haram sect, the South west people would not retaliate the irrational way members of the sect were behaving in the Northern part of the country.

He said it was sad that despite the public outcry against the ungodly activities of the sect, they had continued the systematic killings of Christians on daily basis.

On the call by some Christian leaders that Christians should henceforth defend themselves whenever they are attacked, Bishop Oke said there was no legal system that frowned at self defence.

According to him, President Goodluck Jonathan should not be blamed in the cautious manner he was handling the issue of Boko Haram but warned that he should not be too soft in tackling the menace headlong. Bishop Wale Oke called on the Federal Government to revert to the old fuel price of N65 to give peace a chance, advising the Labour and its civil society allies not to shun dialogue so that masses in the country would not continue to suffer.

He said “The strike action is beginning to take its toll on the nation with the attendant loss of lives and property. Nigeria is losing billions of naira on daily basis and I want to urge President Goodluck Jonathan to reverse the pump price to N65 to douse tension and further engage in wider consultation with all stakeholders for a way forward. If need be, government should embark on phase by phase deregulation of the oil sector”.

Dayo Johnson Akure

GOVERNOR Olusegun Mimiko of Ondo State has lauded the peaceful protest in the state over oil subsidy removal had been conducted in the state.

The governor declared that the street protest had not resulted into any tragedy and said it was a reflection of the genuine desire of the people for peace in the state.

Dr Mimiko who spoke in Akure at a meeting with traditional rulers in the state, said “our leaders in their respective domains have also held forth to ensure that while we concede the fundamental rights of Labour to protest, that they have done it with a sense of responsibility have blocked the occurrence of any unfortunate incident. We appreciate the Labour for comporting itself in a most civilized manner. They have been very conscious of the fact that while they have the right to protest, they also have the moral right to ensure that our people are not hurt in anyway.

“We have always lived together in peace and harmony. We want to re-emphasise that everybody that is living in Ondo State, that is peaceful and living according to the laws of the land will be protected. “All of us major stakeholders including religious leaders have all resolved that we will do whatever we have to do to ensure that there is no breach of the communal peace that we have always enjoyed in the state.”

Responding on behalf of the traditional rulers, the Olowo of Owo, Oba Folagbade Olateru-Olagbegi, gave assurance of cooperation between indigenes and non-indigenes in their various kingdoms to sustain the existing peaceful co-existence in the state.