

women and girls face in their families and communities, in peace and in conflict, within and outside of intimate partnerships, and by state and non-state actors.

Recognising the negative effects that violence, or the threat of it, can have on the physical and mental health of women and their psycho-social wellbeing and the gaps that exist in providing information and quality support services to the women and girls who encounter violence, a consortium of NGOs and partners was

Agency for Rural Development (ARUD) and Simma Vocational Training Centre. MUTAPO-LA, UNPFA and UNCHR are the members of the steering committee.

The launching of the consortium, known as The Women Won't Wait consortium will take place at the TANGO headquarters on 1st July 2008. Dr Omar Jah (Junior) of the University of The Gambia will also use the occasion to launch a study on women and Islam.

## FHAG gives to CRR orphans

by Asanatu Bojang

The Foundation Humanitarian Aid Gambia, recently, handed over a cheque of D10,000 to fifty orphans in Benni Ward in the Sami district of the Central River Region at a presentation ceremony held at the Global Energy Office in Kololi.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony, Bappie Smits, treasurer of FHAG, said the donation of the said amount to the orphans is her organisation's fulfillment of their promises to complement government's efforts towards national development. She further stated that such gestures from her institution started since 2003.

She then observed that "orphans need a lot of support so as to live in a conducive environment. Some people do not take good care of orphans but with this contribution, the menace will reduce".

Madam Smits then thanked the Board of Directors of FAHAG for their tireless contribution to the organisation.

Musa Samusa, councilor for Banni Ward and deputy chairperson of the Kuntaur Area Council, also saluted FHAG for the gesture, noting that it will go a long way in helping to meet the needs of the orphans. He called on other institutions to emulate FHAG and assured them that the money would be put to good use.

## Brazil's Petrobras ready to pump oil in Nigeria



Brazil's state-run Petrobras on July 21 will start pumping oil from Nigeria's offshore Agbami oil field, in partnership with Total and Chevron-Texaco, the company said Saturday.

Currently rated at 100,000 barrels per day (bpd), the Agbami oil field is expected to yield 250,000 bpd next year, one third of which belongs to Petrobras, a company statement said.

Since 1998, when Agbami was first discovered, Petrobras has invested some 2.2 billion dollars in Nigeria, with an additional 1.4 billion dollars expected by 2013. It also has stakes in two other oil fields in the west African nation.

The Petrobras/Total/Chevron-Texaco consortium expects Nigeria's Akpo oil field to kick in next year with 185,000 bpd.

Petrobras said it plans to invest some 15 billion dollars from 2008 to 2012 in foreign oil ventures.

Currently, it has invested 6.6 billion dollars in 23 countries and extracts some 200,000 bpd of oil in eight countries including Angola, Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, the United States and Venezuela.

## Infrastructure development tops EAC leaders

KIGALI - Five leaders from the East African Community member countries have vowed to address challenges facing infrastructure and energy sectors as a bloc to boost investment.

Presidents Paul Kagame of Rwanda, Pierre Nkurunziza of Burundi, Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania, Mwai Kibaki of Kenya and Yoweri Museveni of Uganda were all present at the high profile meeting held at Serena Hotel. Kenyan President Kibaki emphasized that the EAC needed to address the challenge of

He added that since the organisation set up the Customs Union, trade within the EAC had grown from US\$1.3 billion in 2003 to US\$2.2 billion in 2006. He was speaking at the EAC's first investment conference held to showcase opportunities to regional and international investors.

"I wish to take this opportunity to assure investors that we in the East African Community are continually improving the policy and business environment," Kibaki said. He also noted that poor infrastructure has remained a major constraint to investors. President Kibaki observed



the regional economic bloc had tremendously improved the attractiveness of the EAC region for business and investment.

"Moreover, the admission of

Rwanda and Burundi Community has further regional economic bloc market of about 120 million and a combined Gross Product of nearly US\$4 billion added. Uganda's President Museveni said that the bloc will promote the private sector, emphasis to business and entrepreneurs and bureaucrats boosting investments.

He outlined Uganda's development plan, particularly investments in energy, which government has set up, which currently has

government sources

Officials said 60 soldiers loyal to Zacharia Kone had mutinied before demanding the protection of the French military force deployed in Ivory Coast as a condition of their surrender.

Kone, a renowned rebel fighter, was sacked in May as commander for the Seguela zone for an "act of indiscipline". He is now in exile in Ouagadougou.

Officials told AFP the mutiny had begun in the town of Vavoua in the centre west of the country before spreading to nearby Seguela.

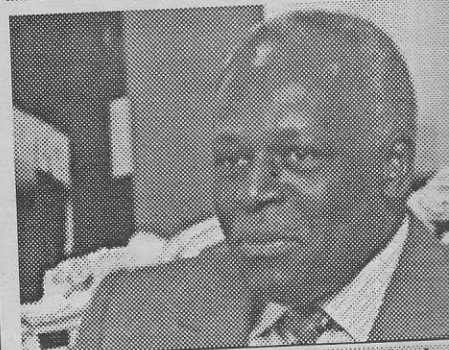
"There has been one dead and one wounded on the side of the assailants," said journalist Dominique Sam. "When calm returned, residents said that three civilians had been killed but I have not seen their bodies," he said.

Alan Lobognon, communications adviser to Prime Minister Guillaume Soro -- himself a former leader of the rebel New Forces (FN) movement to which the soldiers belonged -- confirmed the surrender. "The situation is calm. They have returned to barracks," said FN spokesman Seydou Ouattara, adding that two groups of soldiers had been seen firing into the air earlier Saturday.

"To our great surprise, members of Zacharia Kone's guard revolted at Vavoua and Seguela," said tourism minister Sidiki Konate, also a senior FN figure. Ouattara said the soldiers were protesting the payment of demobilisation allowances, but Konate maintained the action was sparked by a "command problem" following Kone's departure.

Ivory Coast, the world's top cocoa grower and

## Angolan leader Union



Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos

Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos would not attend this week's African Union summit in Egypt but was instead being represented by his prime minister, state media reported.