

Goje escapes death, as 4 die in convoy crash

WILLIAMS ATTAH, Gombe

A fatal auto accident involving the convoy of Gombe State Governor, Alhaji Mohammed

es hit harder other states

The situation has left the market in the hands of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) which is now finding it difficult to meet rising internal demands.

NIPCO Plc which provides through put logistics for independent marketers has since declared that its depots have run dry of products due to supply squeeze from both NNPC and major marketers.

Spokesman, Mr. Taofik Lawal, said the company exhausted its stock penultimate week as bridging trucks besieged it for products.

But NNPC says it would close the supply gaps with products from its operated refineries in-country.

Spokesman, Dr. Levi Ajuonuma, said the scarcity experienced in Lagos was temporary and would soon be phased out with enhanced supplies from the corporation's mega depots...

He said NNPC was carefully monitoring the supply situation in the market to ensure that economic and social activities in the country are not affected.

According to him, government has stepped into resolve labour issues that posed threat to supplies in order to ensure the market was kept wet enough to keep the economy running.

Our checks at filling stations showed queues of motorists in desperate search for fuel during the weekend.

Danjuma Goje, resulted in the instant death of four people as the fate of four others rushed to the Federal Medical Centre Gombe is hanging in the balance.

The accident, which occurred at about 1 pm yesterday afternoon in Gona village on the outskirts of Gombe town along Gombe-Yola road, also left many politicians in the governor's entourage sustaining various degrees of injuries.

Though none of the politicians died, they were seriously injured while both vehicles, especially the other one became a write-off.

The accident occurred following a head-on collision between a Toyota jeep with registration number AG 295 MSA (Bauchi) in the governor's convoy and another Toyota Starlet commercial car with registration number AA 121 DRZ (Bauchi) conveying some traders to Gombe main market.

Eye-witness account at the scene of the accident told *Sunday Champion* that impatience, over-speeding and over loading on

the part of the commercial driver who was among the dead, led to the accident, as they claimed eight persons were inside the two-door vehicle when the accident occurred.

The governor, who was saddened at the sight of the wreckage and stream of blood immediately ordered his aides to assist the injured into the nearest hospital in one of the vehicle in his convoy; while he personally accompanied the bodies of the dead victims to the mortuary of the Federal Medical Centre, Gombe where they were deposited.

Governor Goje and some other dignitaries were on their way to attend the turbaning ceremony of Alhaji Umar Faruk Bamusa, a Lagos-based businessman as *Gado-da Masun* Pindinga Emirate, the hometown of the governor at the time of the incident.

Sunday Champion also learnt that the governor directed that the injured victims be given an express attention while government would pay their medical bills.

Abia gov's wife joins clean-up, w

By CHIOMA UMEHA

CHIEF (Mrs.) Mercy Odochi Orji, wife of the Abia state governor has appealed to the management of Abia State Environmental Protection Agency to provide evacuation trucks and tippers on every clean-up exercise at strategic places to help evacuate the heaps of refuse.

Mrs. Orji, who stated this while participating in the state's monthly clean-up exercise recently, also warned commuters coming into the state to ensure they obey

government's environmental orders to avoid embarrassment from the law enforcement agents.

To show her commitment as a role model in observing the state monthly clean-up exercise meant to keep Abia State clean, Mrs. Orji participated in sweeping and scooping of the gutters around the Okigwe Motor Park, Mission Hill Umuahia, the State capital.

She also appealed to residents of the state, traders and hoteliers to come out en-mass to clean up their premises.