

3 feared dead in Lagos auto crash

NO fewer than three people, including two women, were feared dead yesterday following a ghastly motor accident on the Oworonsoki Expressway in Lagos.

Fifteen others, who sustained various degrees of injuries, were rushed to the General Hospital, Gbagada and a private

clinic at Oworonsoki.

Eye witnesses told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that the accident, which occurred at about 10.30 a.m. at Car Wash Bus Stop, involved three vehicles.

"A Lagos State Waste Management Authority refuse vehicle was collecting refuse on the expressway

when two commercial buses ran into it.

"Three persons died on the spot, five injured persons were taken to Gbagada General Hospital and eight others were rushed to a private hospital at Oworonsoki area," the source told NAN.

The vehicles that ran into the truck were a 14-seater

Volkswagen Transporter and a 'molue'.

NAN reports that the accident caused a heavy traffic on the two sides of the Third Mainland Bridge.

An official of the Lagos State Transport Management Authority (LASTMA), Mr. Kazeem Olarewaju, told NAN that the accident might have been caused by the drivers of the commercial vehicles, who he believed, were over-speeding.



Visit... Gov Peter Obi of Anambra State (middle) flanked by the Nigerian Ambassador to Jamaica Mr. Peter Oyedele (left), and Mr. Bob Manuel Udokwu at the site of one of the collapsed structures during his visit to Haiti, recently.

Ekiti: Wife of slain ACN aspirant seeks justice

VICTOR OGUNJE, Ado Ekiti

WIFE of slain Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) House of Assembly aspirant in Ekiti State, Mrs. Feyisayo Ayaga, has called for the arrest of those fingered in the murder of his

husband, Mr. Kunle Ayaga.

The 33-year-old Kunle was allegedly murdered in Ilawe Ekiti, Ekiti West Local Government Area of the state on Sunday by unidentified police officer attached to the State Anti-Robbery Squad

(SARS)

The suspect was alleged to have deliberately shot at the deceased and escaped in a motorbike during a procession to celebrate the 2010 Ogun Festival in the community

The 61-year-old father of the deceased, Mr. Adewale Ayaga, had however, said the murder of his son was politically motivated, saying the members of the opposition party was responsible for the gruesome murder of his late son

Meanwhile, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Director of Communications and Strategy, Mr. Jackson Adebayo has exonerated the members of his party from the murder. Adebayo called on the police to beam its searchlight on the members of the ACN in the state, alleging that the party has a litany of violent and murderous records.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, Mr. Mohammed Jimoh, said no one had been arrested in connection with the gruesome murder of Ayaga

Jimoh an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) promised that the State Police Command would do its best to unravel the mystery behind the death of the ACN aspirant by bringing the perpetrators to book

Speaking in an emotion laden tone, the 30-year-old Mrs Ayaga regretted that his late husband was a meek and peaceful person, who did not deserve being killed in such a manner

He called on the Inspector General of Police; Mr. Ogbonna Onovo to prevail on the State Police Command to deploy all the arsenal within its reach, to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice

"What the killer did to my husband was the saddest thing to happen to me. In fact, I am very sad by this development and I call on the Inspector General of Police to ensure that the culprits are brought to justice at all costs

"My husband is a very good man who did not deserve such a terrible treatment," she said.

2 Former commissioners, 12 others charged to court

DENNIS NAKU, Port Harcourt

TWELVE members of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) including two former Commissioners in Rivers State, arrested by security operatives in Port Harcourt the state capital on Monday were yesterday arraigned before a Magistrate Court.

They are, Lolo Ibiyeneye, who was in charge of Water Resources, during the administration of Dr. Peter Odili and Nnancy Chidi Nwankwo, former Commissioner of Women Affairs during administration of Sir Celestine Omechia.

Also arraigned in court were two former local government chairmen, Nwuke Anucha and Efor Ngawah Efor, ex-council bosses of Omuma and Eleme respectively, as well as former deputy chairman of the PDP in the state, Prince Ohochukwu.

Others include Lali Green, a female politician from Bonny Local Government Area of the state, Grant Orugbani, Francis Ebenezer, Achinike Wonodi, Agiofu Fubara, Dominic Saatah and Sokuru Jaja.

According to a charge sheet Number PMC/1360C/2010, the accused persons were said to have committed an offence punishable under Section 517A of the Criminal Code Cap 37 Laws of Rivers State of Nigeria 1999 and arraigned on a three-count charge of "unlawful assembly, provoking breach of peace by offensive publication; setting up of a parallel PDP party secretariat at 25 Ohaeto street, D/Line, Port Harcourt and public display of posters with inscription 'The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), state secretariat, No 25, Ohaeto Street, D/Line, Port Harcourt with intent to provoke breach

of the peace."

The court session, which was held in chambers, saw the presiding Magistrate, Israel Agbesor granting the accused persons bail in sum of N500,000 each and a surety each, who must be a Level 15 officer in the Rivers State Civil Service. The sureties, according to the Magistrate, must have verifiable addresses within the state.

In granting the PDP members bail, the Magistrate said it would be unconstitutional for the court not to grant them bail since they did not commit criminal offence.

Agbesor noted that the accused persons would not jump bail, describing them as senior citizens of the society. The Magistrate, however, adjourned hearing of the case till August 18, 2010.

Meanwhile, the charges brought against them, contradicts a statement issued by Secretary to the Rivers State Government, Hon. Magnus Abe few hours after their arrest on Monday.

Abe stated that "information received by the security agencies in Rivers State indicate that today, Monday, August 09, 2010, some hired thugs and cultists had gathered at a house somewhere in Port Harcourt and were attacking themselves in a manner likely to cause a breach of the peace."

"Meetings of our political opponents are held daily in the state, and we encourage them and protect them, because we

and the Rule of Law but we stringently believe and practice it.

Gunmen kidnap female lecturer in Rivers varsity

DENNIS NAKU, Port Harcourt

A female lecturer, with the Rivers State University of Education, Grace Ofor was kidnapped by yet-to-be identified gunmen in Port Harcourt on Monday.

A source in the Academic Staff Union of the institution, Ofor was snatched at her residence about 8:00pm at Eleparanwo area of Port Harcourt, Rivers State capital shortly after she arrived home.

No group has claimed responsibility for the

abduction.

Although, details of the abduction could not be ascertained at press time, the State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Dr. Mrs. Rita Inoma-Abbey confirmed the abduction as unfortunate.

Inoma-Abbey, a Superintendent of Police (SP) said: "I am yet to receive any official briefing on the kidnap of the lecturer, but I am aware of it since yesterday (Monday) just as she promised to give further detail once she had been briefed on the matter.

Be wary of stray dogs, LASG warns citizens

L AGOS State Government yesterday warned citizens against any contact with stray dogs, following the death of a boy in Badagry after a bite from a rabid dog.

The Commissioner for Agriculture and Cooperatives, Mr. Enock Ajiboso, gave the advice during an interaction with journalists in his office in Ikeja. According to Ajiboso, there is an increase in dog bites within the state, especially in the Badagry area.

He said investigation by the ministry and the Nigerian Veterinary Medical Association (NVMA) confirmed that the symptoms exhibited by the deceased showed he died of rabies.

He, however, blamed the boy's parents, who allegedly forcefully discharged the boy from the hospital following non-improvement in his health, for his death. He said though dogs were people-friendly, residents should be wary of dogs which behaved abnormally.

"A dog that goes about biting anything it comes across is not normal and must be thoroughly investigated by taking it to a veterinary doctor. In most cases, where there is unprovoked biting by a dog, especially a dog that was once friendly, then rabies is highly suspected," Ajiboso said.

He also advised dog owners to always vaccinate them as unvaccinated dogs were susceptible to rabies.

He listed other symptoms of a rabid dog to include excessive salivation, unprovoked aggressive biting of anything, aggressive feeding on anything that dogs will normally not feed on, paralysis and eventual death.

He advised victims of dog bites to wash the spot thoroughly with soap and immediately seek medical attention.

Extortion: Onovo urged to call policemen to order

ALPHONSUS NWEZE, Onitsha

THE Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Mr. Ogbonna Onovo, has been urged to call to order, his officers and men serving in Anambra State who have not heeded his directive to stop extortion, intimidation and harassment of innocent people in the state especially Onitsha, the commercial hub of the state.

The President-General of Anambra State Market Amalgamated Traders Association (AMATAS), Chief Okwudili Ezenwankwo, said in an interview with *Daily Champion* in Onitsha that the IGP should hasten the transfer of officers and men who had spent three years and above in the state.

He said the IGP had been talking about transfer of his officers for some time and lamented that this had led to nothing, thus creating suspicion among people that he (IGP) may not be serious and sincere about the transfers.

According to Ezenwankwo, to ensure sanity and discipline in Anambra State Police Command especially Onitsha there should be massive transfer of all the corrupt policemen including Divisional Police Officers, Area Commanders and Commanders of other police formations.

He decried continued police extortion, intimidation and harassment in the state in spite of the purported directive from the top police hierarchy to stop such forthwith.

Ezenwankwo said the traders in the state were not comfortable with the manner various police units were carrying out their activities. He described as "reprehensible and unacceptable" the manner in which police in Anambra State especially in Onitsha, the state commercial hub arrest traders and their customers indiscriminately and extort them.

Okwudili said a situation where traders would buy goods in the market only to be arrested by the police within the town was not only inexplicable but clear provocation of the traders in Onitsha.

The President-General wondered why the police has no respect and regard for command structure, saying that the IGP, and the state Commissioner of Police, Philemon Leha had at various times directed the policemen to stop extortion, yet the police have remained adamant in utter disobedience to the superior directive.

He lamented that all manner of policemen whether regular, mobile, bomb disposal, high way patrol and Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) were involved in chasing traders with their vehicles and motor bikes and extortion at road blocks.

"The IGP should ensure sanity in the police; there should be discipline. The harassment of innocent traders must stop. The constant arrest and detention on flimsy excuses amount to abuse of police power. The IGP should know that it cannot be business as usual again," he said.

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