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**Nigeria: Six Feared Dead in Enugu Inferno**

Tony Ita Etim

29 July 2011

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Enugu — At least six persons were feared dead in Enugu following an early morning fire caused by a petrol tanker that fell and spilled its content.

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Also more than 20 houses, household property and goods worth millions of naira were razed in the inferno that caught residents of the area unaware.

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Eyewitnesses said the tanker with registration number Lagos KT 968 JJJ belonging to Shorelink Oil and Gas Services Limited, Port-Harcourt, Rivers State fell was coming from the New Market axis when the accident occurred while the driver was negotiating the Central Police Station, CPS roundabout in front of the Nigeria Prisons, Enugu at about 7. 20 am.

In the process of trying to negotiate the roundabout the vehicle fell and the entire the 33,000 litres of petrol pour

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The chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission clarified a report...

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into a nearby gutter that ran from the Nigeria Prisons through the police barracks and part of Ogbete Main Market consuming setting houses household items, vehicles, wares and livestock ablaze in its trial.

Mostly affected were six block of houses in the Prisons barrack, five houses in CPS barrack, seven vehicles including the fuel tanker, two motorcycles, five goats, about 20 shops containing different types of goods along the Railway Line in Ogbete market, furniture and other household appliances belonging to warders and policemen living in the affected barracks.

According to Mr. Ndubisi Ottah, am eyewitness who hails from Abia State, when he saw the way the tanker driver was negotiating the roundabout, he (Ottah) raised and alarm that saved many of the residents.

Ottah that tanker driver who was coming from new market road on high speed lost control of the vehicle with the tanker falling broadside and later exploding.

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Reacting to the accident, Enugu State Governor Sullivan Chime, ordered that all illegal structures in the state capital be pulled down and removed within two weeks just as he commiserated with the victims.

Chime gave the order following reports that personnel of the state Fire Service who had arrived the scene promptly encountered difficulties in their efforts to prevent the spread of the fire owing to illegal structures that blocked the access routes.

Addressing newsmen after inspecting the scene of the disaster, the State Deputy, Mr. Sunday Onyebuchi said the government would do everything possible to minimise the damage from such tragedies in future and said destruction of illegal structures that hindered the movement of fire trucks was a major step in that direction.

Onyebuchi, on behalf of the state government, commiserated with the victims of the explosion and assured them that government would look into the matter and come to their aid.

He assured that the state government would find ways to alleviate the suffering of the people and praised the fire service and other paramilitary agencies in the state for their quick response to the incident.

The Deputy Governor warned drivers of heavy duty vehicles in the state to apply more

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caution more especially when they are conveying highly inflammable goods. The chairman Enugu North Local Government Area, Mr. Herbert Orji in his reaction described the occurrence as tragic and noted that properties worth millions were destroyed.

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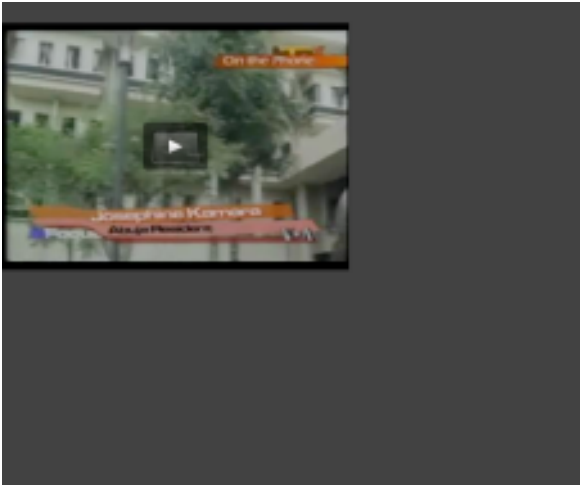
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