

Two die in auto crash

Two persons yesterday lost their lives, when a Mercedes bus filled with six passengers and goods lost control along the airport road, Abuja and swerved into a ditch.

Other passengers of the bus, who were believed to be returning from Onitsha, sustained various degrees of injuries and were rushed to the hospital.

The incident which took place close to Dantata drew quick responses from on-lookers, police, NEMA and civil defence officials.

An eyewitness said the bus filled with paints, tyres and other goods, lost control and somersaulted into a ditch, killing two of its passengers instantly. "Other injured passengers in the bus were rescued by on-lookers before the police, civil defence and NEMA officials arrived to take over control of the situation," he said.

One of the victims, Isiah Enejo, said they travelled throughout the night from Onitsha and he had a blackout when the incident happened. "When I regained my consciousness, I did not see my brothers that sat close to

By Kennedy Egbonodje

me. When I asked for their whereabouts, the police told me that they have been taken to the hospital," he disclosed.

Enejo, who sustained a deep cut in his right hand,

shunned offers to be taken to the hospital and was seen packing his belongings which were scattered at the spot of the crash.

A traffic policeman at the spot told the reporter that the

dead and injured passengers of the ill fated bus have been taken to the hospital. The officer also disclosed that the police were salvaging the goods of the victims. "We have condoned the spot of

the incident to prevent people from getting close to the goods of the victims scattered in the ditch. We would ensure that they are safely kept," he said.

Bwari chairman blames attack on political opponents

By Shehu Abubakar & Janet Zadok

The chairman of Bwari area council in the FCT, Mr. Isah Dara Bwari has blamed the alleged assassination attempt on his life to the handiwork of his political enemies who he said have been threatening to kill him.

Mr. Bwari whose residence was attacked on Sunday evening by gun men numbering about 10, said though the attackers claimed to be operatives of the Economics and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), he was sure they were assassins sent to kill him.

"A chairmanship aspirant in this area council had publicly said it was time for him to succeed me at all cost. He said, Isa Dara (the chairman),

is dead and so he must be the next chairman. I am sure it is that same person who wants me dead. I have already briefed the security agencies on this and so I would not want to give more details," he said.

The chairman explained that the attackers, who were said to be fully armed with AK 47 and pistols, arrived his house in a blue Toyota Carina and one other white car at around 7pm on November 12 this year.

He said though he was not aware of the presence of the attackers in his house, "I was told by my security men that the assassins arrived the house almost the same time I was leaving my house through my back door.

"I was told that when they

came, they asked of me. They disarmed the policeman in the house, shot and killed him and also shot and wounded the other arm-less policeman. They also attacked and wounded my un-suspecting Chief detail (SSS official) who ignorantly, ran into the house when the operation was going on.

"They ransacked my house from one room to the other. There was nowhere they did not check for me. They left without taking anything when they could not see me. They beat up a lot of people before leaving the house," he said.

Alhaji Bwari said the assassins left with the AK 47 rifle the policeman in his house was carrying. He complained that the security in the area has fallen below standard and called on the police and other

security agencies to strengthen their operations to provide more security.

Mr. Bwari wondered why there was no re-enforcement of policemen to his house for the over 30 minutes the operation lasted, adding, "the police need to do a lot. There should be more patrol by both uniform and surveillance policemen to ensure security.

Commenting, the FCT commissioner of police, Mr Lawrence Alobi said he would not like to conclude that it was either a robbery or assassination attempt until investigation into the matter is concluded.

He said crack detectives have been detailed to trail and arrest the attackers. He said the command is strategizing to ensure adequate protection of lives and property in the territory.