

DANA Plane Crash

Eight Americans died in crash

AN American family of six were among those who died in the Dana plane crash which claimed 153 lives on Sunday in Lagos.

Maimuna Anyene from West Hartford, Connecticut was with her Nigerian husband Onyeke and their four young children when the plane came down in Lagos on Sunday.

The children were Noah, aged 5 months, one-year-old twins Kaiyen and Kaima and Kamsi, three, the children's godmother, Mari Sifo told local news.

As news of their deaths spread round their home town of West Hartford, Connecticut, neighbours gathered at their Park Place Circle house laying flowers and struggling to come to terms with the tragedy, The Hartford Courant reported.

Mrs Anyene was described as an educated, vibrant woman who was always smiling. The family were well known in their neighbourhood.

The crash also claimed the lives of Josephine and Jennifer Onita from Missouri City, Texas. The sisters who were also on their way to Lagos for a wedding.

They were the daughter's of Solomon and Lola Onita, pastors of a Missouri City congregation of the Nigerian-based Redeemed Christian Church of God, The Houston Chronicle reports.

Their older sister Christiana Onita-Olojo said: 'Josephine always made people laugh. Jennifer is sweet. These are angels.'

Jennifer, 28, was an electrical engineering graduate and Josephine, 23, was an accountancy manager for the family business. (Mail online.)

...6 Chinese, 2 Indians

By Ben Atonko

TWO Indian professionals were on board the ill-fated Dana Air plane, High Commissioner of Indian Mahesh Sachdev said yesterday in Abuja.

CHINA news agency, Xinhua said six Chinese were also killed in the crash but did not give their names.

The Indians are Mr Rijo Kochukudiyl and Mr Mahender Singh Rathore.

Kochukudiyl was working as a Computer Engineer at M/S Redington Nig. Ltd., Abuja while Rathore, a US citizen of Indian origin was co-pilot on the airliner.

The High Commissioner said, "We have two professionals—the brightest people in their respective fields who lost their lives in that crash. We commiserate with their families."



PRISON guards stand on alert after an attempted jail break in Lafia recently.

Crash: Senate bans Dana, suspends NCAA boss

By Isiaka Wakili

THE Senate yesterday banned the operations of the Dana airlines and suspended the Director General of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), Harold Demuren, following Sunday's crash of a Dana aircraft in Lagos.

Adopting a motion sponsored by the chairman of the Senate Committee on Aviation, Senator Hope

Uzodinma (PDP, Imo West) and 29 others, the Senate urged Demuren to step aside pending the investigation into the causes of the crash.

The Senate also demanded the reports of the probes of past air crashes in the country and directed its Committee on Aviation to liaise with that of the House of Representatives to investigate the immediate and remote causes of the crash.

Senate President David Mark

challenged the executive to implement whatever resolutions the Senate would pass on the issue.

Lending his voice to the debate, Senator Haadi Sirka Abubakar (CPC, Katsina North), an aeronautic engineer by profession, queried the role of regulatory agencies and the state of preparedness of rescuing authorities, saying an immediate response could have saved some lives in the crash.

Also speaking, Deputy Senate President Ike Ewkeremadu (PDP, Enugu West) as well as Senators Ahmed Makarfi (PDP, Kaduna North), Smart Adeyemi (PDP, Kogi West), Helen Esuene (PDP, Akwa Ibom South-West) and Mohammed Bindowo Jibrilla (PDP, Adamawa North) called for holistic air safety measures and appropriate sanctions for those responsible for the crash.

N/Assembly probes air worthiness of all airlines

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE National Assembly yesterday set up Joint committees to conduct an investigation into the air worthiness of all airlines operating in Nigeria.

This followed the Sunday crash of the Dana airliner in Lagos which killed 157 people on board while dozens other on the ground.

Speaker Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, who announced the constitution of the investigative panel comprising of Senators and members of the House Committee on Aviation said they are to ascertain the air worthiness of all other operating aircrafts in the country and make appropriate recommendations.

The decision was arrived at after a motion on matters of urgent national importance raised by Rep Nkeiruka Onyejeocha came under matters of urgent national importance and called

for stricter enforcement of all aviation-related laws and regulations of the sector.

"The latest crashes are clear indication of failure and or negligence of relevant regulatory functions in the aviation industry which if unchecked could lead to more devastating air mishaps in the future" Onyejeocha, who chairs the House Aviation committee said. She said the committee would do a clinical re-examination of the country's aviation norms and operational procedures with particular reference to regulatory and supervisory functions.

For his part, Rep. Bashir Adamu Kazaure (PDP, Jigawa) said this should be the last of such deadly crashes in Nigeria.

The House also directed Aviation Ministry to set up an air worthiness special committee with a view to ensuring prevention of such crashes.

US offers to assist Nigeria investigate crash

By Romoke W. Ahmad

The United States has said it is prepared to assist Nigeria in its investigation of the plane crash that killed over 153 people in Lagos on Sunday.

The U.S. in a statement by its Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, extended its condolences to those who lost family and loved ones in the crash.

"We stand with the people of Nigeria at this difficult time and we are prepared to assist the Nigerian Government in its investigation of this tragic accident," Clinton said.

Meanwhile, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Olugbenga Ashiru, Minister of State II, Dr. Nurudeen Muhammad and staff of the ministry have conveyed their condolences to the Minister of State I, Professor Viola Onwuliri on the death of her husband, Professor Celestine Onwuliri in the ill-fated Dana Airlines flight.