

Four varsity candidates die in Benue auto crash

TRAGEDY struck on Saturday evening along the Katsina Ala, Gboko road in Benue State as four students who travelled to write the University Matriculation Examination (UME) died in a ghastly motor accident.

The bus they were travelling in collided with a Toyota starlet car.

An eye-witness said that several other occupants of the vehicles sustained varying degrees of injuries, with the corpses of the deceased deposited at the General Hospital, Katsina Ala, while the injured are still receiving treatment at the same hospital.

The *Guardian* gathered that the students who were traveling to different towns around Katsina Ala boarded the bus at the Katsina Ala bridgehead late in the evening after the examinations. It was learnt that the trip was smooth until the bus got to the Ugbema-Gboko road, when the car, which was trying to avoid a pothole, ran into the bus.

The number of deaths would have been more but for the quick intervention of villagers around the accident scene, who moved in swiftly to rescue the passengers.

The Katsina Ala-Gboko Federal Highway has become a death trap in recent times, due to the several potholes on the road, forcing motorists to avoid them, only to find themselves on the wrong lanes of other drivers.

Meanwhile, the UME went on without the usual cases of examination malpractice. From the centres monitored by *The*

From Simeon Nwakaudu, Makurdi

Guardian in Makurdi, Katsina Ala and Gboko, it was noticed that examiners and supervisors were quite strict, insisting that only students with proper identification have access to the school premises of

the examination centres. Persons with no recognisable identity were locked outside the gate of the schools.

At the Government Girls College, Makurdi, some youths who insisted on gaining entry were driven away by policemen who

threatened to arrest and prosecute them.

It was the same situation at the Government Model College, Makurdi and the Mount Saint Gabriel Secondary School, where the security operatives stood their ground, despite the actions of some hired hands who wanted to gain entry into the schools to assist some students during the examinations.

ANPP suspends Imo guber candidate, Azike

From Charles Ougbuaja, Owerri

FOR alleged anti-party activities, the Imo State chapter of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) has suspended its governorship candidate, Chief Ziggy Azike from the party.

In a statement issued at the weekend and signed by the state chairman of the party, Dr. Vitalis Orikeze Ajumbe and made available to *The Guardian*, he noted that a disciplinary committee had been set up to investigate activities against Azike and others.

The statement which was titled: "Suspension of Chief Ziggy Azike from ANPP" and dated May 4 which was read intermittently on the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) FM heartland, Owerri, it stated in part: "ANPP Imo state chapter has viewed with dismay the anti-party activities of Azike contrary to the provisions of the constitution of ANPP and therefore has suspended him from ANPP with immediate effect. A disciplinary committee has been set

up to investigate the anti party activities against him and some other party members."

It further stated that the party should not be linked with the activities of the Movement for the Actualization of Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), adding: "We want to reassure our members, supporters and the security agents in the state that our party has no link with MASSOB or any militant group."

It was learnt that Azike was until few months ago a governorship aspirant in the Action Congress (AC) who quickly defected to ANPP when he could not scale through in the primary and got the party's ticket. He later picked Ajumbe as his running mate.

Sources said he used the MASSOB platform to castigate the Federal Government's stance at the movement during his campaigns.

Fire guts Kano Assembly complex

From Adamu Abuh, Kano

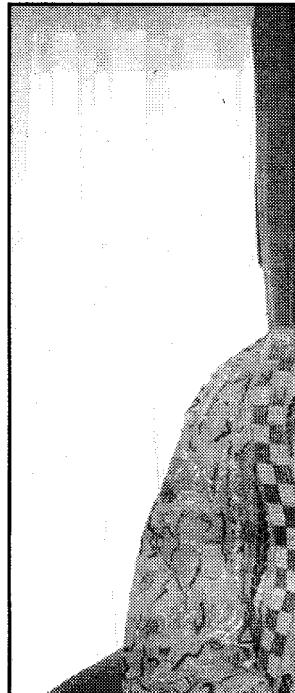
FIRE fighters yesterday put up a spirited fight to put off an inferno which razed part of the Kano House of Assembly complex.

The source of the inferno, which completely burnt the

entire legislative chamber and a live television transmitting section of the chamber, is yet to be ascertained.

Properties worth thousands of naira were

Ajumbe said that as at the time of press Azike was yet to pay his N2 million nomination form and N600,000 fees despite haven been written to by ANPP to pay all his dues.. He also recently congratulated the Imo state Governor elect, Chief Ikedi Ohakim.



• Managing Director/CEO of Egbaland, Oba Adedotun A. State... recently.