

Rep's wife, others die in auto crash

From Lawrence Njoku, Enugu

AN auto crash involving the member representing Awgu South constituency at the Enugu House of Assembly, Emmanuel Maduabum on Tuesday evening claimed the lives of his wife, driver and another driver of a commuter bus.

The lawmaker, who now lies critically ill at the Intensive Care Unit of the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital (UNTH) Enugu after sustaining severe injuries from the crash was said to be returning to Enugu from Awgu where he had gone to attend a constituency meeting when the accident occurred.

The Guardian learnt that the accident, which took place along the Enugu-Port

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Harcourt highway, involved the Camry car, which the lawmaker and his wife were driving in and a commuter bus.

Although the driver of the Camry car, the wife of the lawmaker and the driver of the commuter bus died instantly, it was gathered that it took the intervention of officials of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), who used a heavy axe and other metallic objects to

shatter the car before the driver's body could be rescued.

Narrating the incident yesterday, Chairman, House Committee on Information and Media, Marcel Njeze, said that the lawmaker was attempting to escape from armed bandits who were said to have barricaded a portion of the road and robbing commuters.

"As they were returning to

Enugu after the meeting, there was this rumour that armed robbers made a blockade along the road and robbing people; so they attempted to turn and run away from the scene; it was in the process that their vehicle collided with a commuter bus. As I speak to you, the lawmaker is lying critically ill at the UNTH Enugu, while the bodies of the drivers and his nursing wife have been deposited at the mortuary," he said.

Njeze disclosed that the dead wife of the lawmaker only gave birth to a baby girl two months ago, lamenting that the development was a sad one which should not happen to any individual.

Meanwhile, the State House

of Assembly yesterday threatened to sue the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), the Police and a national newspaper (not *The Guardian*) should it fail to furnish it before the close of work tomorrow, with details of her six members allegedly involved in the illegal importation of 450.4 kg of cocaine into the country.

In a motion brought under matter of urgent public importance, sponsored by the member representing Udi North, Marcel Njeze, the House said that the publication had subjected it to public ridicule, stressing that the only way to clear the smeared image was to get to the root of the allegation.