



UPDATED: Tue Mar, 09 2010 | Sign Up

Welcome Guest [Login Here] Feedback

Frontpage::Columnist
::Guest

Politics Life Letters Editorials



Current Edition



Archives

GO

NEW! stock charts available, click on the name



Breaking News

News
Sports
Life
Features
Life
Business

Subscribe News

Enter your Email Address

GO

Regional News

Arewa
Ndigbo
Niger Delta
Oduduwa

Features

Life
Politics
Business
Sports

Man In News

Ojukwu In
Demonstration
Of AppreciationIconic leader of Igbo
race, Dim
Chukwuem

Weather in Abuja, Nigeria

Current Conditions:

N/A
N/A
Wind: N/A N/A mph

WED	THU	FRI	SAT
3/10	3/11	3/12	3/13
H:41	H:41	H:42	
L:21	L:20	L:20	

Last Update: 12:00:43 PM

Abuja

Cartoon for the day



Opinion Poll

WIT & WISDOM “Goals determine what you're going to be”

LAST UPDATED AT Tue Mar, 09 2010

Print Email

Trailers Crush 104 To Death At Lokoja, Benin Markets

• Kidnappers Kill Two, Abduct Two Others In Onitsha
By Francis Onoiribholo (Benin), Chukwujekwu Ilozue (Onitsha) and Olufemi Yahaya (Lokoja)

Death took 106 lives in different forms in three states on Monday and Tuesday, 104 of them through road accidents in Lokoja and Benin, and two by the bullets of kidnappers in Onitsha.

On Tuesday, wailing and sorrow overwhelmed the residents of Lokoja where about 100 people were crushed to death in multiple vehicle accidents caused by the driver of a trailer who lost control at the Lokoja New Market.

The victims, mostly traders and passengers, were killed when the trailer loaded with cement belonging to Dangote Company had break failure and ran into them and 14 on coming vehicles, including passenger buses and five motorcycle taxis.

The tragedy occurred at about noon when the market was at its peak, and threw the city into confusion as thousands rushed to the scene to check for relatives.

Kogi State Deputy Governor, Phillip Salawu, who came to the scene to sympathise with the traders, was nearly lynched by an angry crowd which chased him away and did not allow him to utter a word.

Salawu and other top government officials who arrived the market at 2.07 p.m., were confronted by protesters who shouted slogans denouncing the government and blamed it for their overstay at the market site.

The site lies by the dreaded Abuja Road.

There were conflicting figures of the casualties. The police claimed 50 while the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) Sector Commander, Yomi Asaniyan, said 26 died and 30 were injured.

But Asaniyan noted that many families had taken some victims away before FRSC officials arrived.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (Operation), Owolabi Adetunji, who was at the scene, urged Lokoja Council to advise the traders to move out of the roadside.

Lokoja Council Vice Chairman, Lawrence Ikuboroje, explained that, "The market itself is not too close to the road but people transacting business come to the roadside, which is not encouraging to the Local Government," he said.

A similar accident happened in December last year at Dekina in the state when the driver of a trailer lost control and ran into a market, leading to the death of several people.

In Benin on Tuesday, four persons were also crushed to death by a trailer at the popular Urelu Market on the Ugbowo-Lagos Road.

Eyewitnesses said the Mack trailer, marked XG 633 BEN, had break failure and wanted to avert running into the market when it swerved to the opposite direction.

The four persons crushed included a young man, two motorcycle riders, and a woman named Rita Oshawo, a nurse, whose husband and children were waiting on the other side of the road.

Edo State FRSC Sector Commander, Henry Olatunji, warned traders against street trading which he said is illegal and endangers their lives and those of others.

Tragedy had struck in Anambra State on Monday evening when kidnappers killed both the policeman attached to Ogbaru Main Market Traders Association Patron, Sam Mendu, and his driver on Ezeiweka Road Awada, a suburb of Onitsha.

After the killings, the kidnapers abducted Mendu and the market President, Eugene Nwanne. Rising tension led to the closure of the market.

Ogbaru Market Vice President, Emmanuel Onuka, said Mendu and Nwanne were kidnapped at about 7 p.m. while returning from Awka where they did some business and had a meeting with Governor Peter Obi's Assistant, Sylvester Nwobu-Alor.

Police Public Relations Officer, Emeka Chukwuemeka, confirmed the incident, but said contact has not been made with the abductors.

The Chairman of the Amalgamated Markets Traders Association of Anambra State, Okwudili Ezenwankwo, attributed the incident to the age long dispute in the market, which has led to the death of two former Chairmen and others.

Latest News Most Commented Most Read

+ **Govs Demand** Probe Of N1.15tr NNPC Subsidy C
+ **Trailers Crush** 104 To Death At Lokoja, Beni
+ **Jang Indicts** Army Over Jos Killings
+ **Abuja Power** Play: The Beat Goes On
+ **Oil Reverses** Two-day Rally, Falls Near \$80
+ **NNPC To** Replenish National Strategic Stock
+ **Nigeria To** Begin Gas Supply To W/Africa, Eu
+ **Cele Bus** Stop Needs Modern Motor Park
+ **Lagos: Tackling** Challenges Of Power For Wat
+ **Kalu Tasks** Lagerback On Kanu

Editorials

+ **NAPEP And The** Tricycle (Keke NAPEP)
+ **Niger: Against** Renaissance Of Milit
+ **Recent Troop** Deployment And Sundry

Columnist

Conversation of an Angry man

Why President Yar'adua Cannot Be Seen

Candour's Niche

Yet, Another Bloodbath On The Plateau

The Roundtable

Black History Month: Thurgood Marshall (Mr. Civil Rights)

Laser

Speaking Out

A World With Only One Voice

Should President Yar'Adua be impeached amid the present political tension and leadership uncertainty in the country?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

VOTE

[View Results](#)

CMO COUNCIL™

**RATE THE
STATE OF
MARKETING
IN AFRICA**

Auditing Functional
Innovation, Influence
& Impact

TAKE AUDIT ►

Views:1340

Article Comments

(1 comment)

On Wed Mar, 10 2010 02:19 by Nwafo Igbo

These deaths are not ordinary. Nigerians have been talking about so-called robbers initiated crushing of passengers along Lagos - Enugu route. It is so disheartening that the police had to release the man that killed these people. Such a person should be behind bars for the rest of his life or major part of it. It was nothing but stage managed ritual killing. This is case at Lokoja is another similar issue. These are nothing but ritualism and cultists taking innocent blood. Nigerians should embrace the gospel and become born again. At present there seem to be no place to hide but in Christ Jesus. This is no time to pitch tent with the money making ministers of prosperity and millionaire preachers. This is not time to follow psychedelic ministers aligned to face painted up women of trouser wearing and vulgar dressing pedigree. Neither is this time to follow preachers that are making money with name of Jesus buying jets and building estates which Jesus NEVER commanded them. This is time

[View AllComments](#)

Post New Comment

Your Name*

Comment*

1000 character limit

Identify the text in the image*



Comments are subject to admin approval before they are displayed here.

GO

Click here to download our new advert rate. Any query email: onlineeditor@inlg.com

Help those most in need

Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger Support Concern Worldwide
www.concern.net

Public Service Ads by Google

Designed By Nigercom Networks Limited
For Support Call 098701101 (Landline) 07037233326 08078151812
Email: Support@Nigercom.com | www.nigercom.com

Contact us | About us | Directors | Check Mail
Copyright © Independent Newspapers. | All rights reserved