

ELECHI, OTHERS MOURN, AS EBONYI LG BOSS DIES IN AUTO CRASH

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Chairman of Onicha Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, Obazi Nwode, was on Monday morning confirmed dead in an auto crash along Abakaliki-Afikpo Express Road.

Four other occupants of the official Hilux van of the council boss, said to be his aides, sustained varied degrees of injury.

Nwode was on his way to Abakaliki to confirm an appointment with Governor Martin Elechi, who was earlier scheduled to be at the Onicha council area in continuation of his thank-you tour of the 13 councils of the state.

He was killed when the vehicle somersaulted while negotiating a bend during a heavy down pour.

Confirming the incident, State Commissioner for Information and State Orientation, Chike Onwe, stated that the accident occurred at about 4.30pm on Sunday along the Nkwagu Military Cantonment axis of the Abakaliki-Afikpo Express road, noting that the car somersaulted several times, leaving Nwode dead and others injured.

Onwe, who described the incident as unfortunate, regrettable and tragic, stated that the death of the council boss has thrown the state into mourning.

He said: "Yesterday (Sunday) we got the shocking news of the demise of our dear council boss, who died in a ghastly motor accident within the Nkwaagu Military Cantonment of the Abakaliki-Afikpo Express road.

"We lost him at a time the state government needed his services most. He has served meritoriously and the state government. We will miss his services so much.

"He would be rewarded for good services rendered, according to the state governor's programme of thank you visit to the various Local Government Areas, his Local government is supposed to be visited today.

"I discussed with him on Saturday when it became obvious that the governor would no longer visit the council.

"We also scheduled to meet Monday morning only for us to receive the shocking news that he died in an auto crash on Sunday evening.

"It is painful, it is tragic and it has thrown the state into morning. His personality is unimaginable, very admirable and his disposition to government programme has been encouraging.

"He has served the system at the third tier of government meritoriously".

Meanwhile, wife of the Ebonyi State governor, Josephine Elechi, has described Nwode's death as painful and unfortunate.

Mrs. Elechi, who paid a condolence visit to the family at their residential home in Abakaliki, described the council boss as a peace loving man, a philanthropist, a dedicated Christian and an astute politician, regretting that the state government, especially the people of Onicha Local Government Area, would miss his dedication to the development of the area.

Similarly, the Chairman Ezza South Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, Laz Ogbee, described Nwode's death as a great loss, adding that the state and the Association of Local Government Chairmen (ALGON), would miss him for his immense

contribution and views on how to move the local government administration forward.

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