

News

www.dailyindependentnigeria.com

African parliamentarians back NASS on state Assemblies' autonomy

By Celestine Okafor
Assist Politics Editor, Abuja

DECISION of the National Assembly Constitution Review Committees (CRC) to grant independence and financial autonomy to the State Houses of Assembly as contained in the committee reports of the Senate and House of Representatives have received the support of African regional parliamentarians.

This was contained in a communiqué issued in Abuja by participants at the just-concluded two-day International Conference on Emerging Democracies in Africa: Challenges and Opportunities.

The conference was organised by the National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS) in collaboration with African and European parliamentarians.

Egba High Chief, two others die in auto crash

By Segun Adeleye
Reporter, Abeokuta

AN Egba High Chief and Senior Lecturer at the Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago Iwoye, Gbenga Dalley, and two others died while six others were on danger list in a multiple road crash that occurred on Wednesday evening along the Abeokuta/Sagamu road.

Aneyewitness informed that the incident occurred about 30km to Abeokuta, near Onipepeye Village, at about 6.25pm.

The crash involved three vehicles, including the Toyota Camry car with number OGUN AAB 181 AA in which the Egba Chief, Akinfimoogboye of Egbaland personally drove.

The source added that another Toyota car, whose number could not be recorded, veered into the bush some metres away from the road after it lost control on its way to Lagos and crossed over the culvert.

It was further gathered that, Dalley, who was re-

ported to be returning from the university, had approached the scene in an effort to avoid having a collision, but was run over by an articulated truck, which did not stop.

The two passengers in the commercial vehicle and Dalley, which had part of his head smashed, died on the spot.

The flyers belonging to the private school that the Egba High Chief runs, littered the road, with his lifeless body in the green coloured *kampala* attire laid beside his badly dam-

aged car.

Confirming the accident, Head of Operation, Ogun Command of Federal Road Safety Corps, Cecilia Alao, told newsmen in Abeokuta on Thursday that the accident involved three vehicles and eight persons.

She revealed that a Toyota Camry car marked LAGOS AAA 181 AA, Mitsubishi Space Wagon OGUN LAR 55 XA and Honda car with number LAGOS: KSF 224 AT, collided due to over speeding.

U.S. top officials in trouble shooting visit to Amaechi

UNITED States of America Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilisation Operations, Rick Barton, on Wednesday led a delegation of U.S. diplomats on a courtesy visit to the Rivers State governor, Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, at Government House, Port Harcourt.

Also in the delegation

was Director of Africa Operations in the Bureau, Neal Kringel, and Consular General of U.S. Consulate in Lagos, Jeffrey Hawkins.

Barton told Amaechi that they were in the state to find possible ways to assist the state government in any conflict situation.

He highlighted the good relations between the Unit-

ed States of America and Nigeria and commended Amaechi for his work in Rivers State and his ability to resolve problems.

"Thank you, Mr Governor. It's a great pleasure to be here with you. We have had the chance to savour your hospitality and enjoy your state for the last 24 hours and it's been a great

pleasure.

"We've had the chance to drive out to the countryside and to visit with some of your constituents and to get a feeling of what you and your cabinet are doing here in the state to advance the confidence of the public and the state of the cordial life of your citizens", he said.

NHRC sets up committee to identify electoral offenders

By Joe Nwankwo
Assistant Editor, Abuja

NATIONAL Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Thursday set up a technical working group to review evidence of electoral violations and identify those indicted, but were not prosecuted.

Speaking at the inauguration of the committee, Chairman NHRC Governing Council, Chidi Odinkalu, said the commission felt that electoral impunity must be addressed to strengthen the nation's democracy.

He noted that for too long in the history of the country, the will of the people had been stolen and no one was ever punished for that.

According to him, some people have been identified in official records, including court judgments for violating electoral laws, but they were not sanctioned.

He explained that the technical committee was set up with a view to identifying those who had committed a rape on the nation's democracy and were left unpunished.

N2b pension fraud: EFCC