

Reps to probe ATM fake naira notes

By Sola Shittu, Abuja

THE House of Representatives on Wednesday directed its Committee on Banking and Currency to investigate the incidence of fake naira notes being dispensed by some Automated Teller Machines (ATMs).

In a motion of urgent public importance raised on the floor of the House by Hon. Yusuf Tajudeen, the House expressed worry on the recent discovery which has led to the loss of legitimate funds, positive impacts on banking operations, service delivery and safety of customers' fund since it was introduced in 2001 by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

"Despite the positive features of this payment platform, there has been

Five family members die mysteriously in A'Ibom

Aniefiok Macauley
Correspondent, Uyo

IT WAS a tragedy as five family members were said to have mysteriously died in their sleep early morning of Wednesday in Mbiakpan Ikot Obio Ekere village in Ikot Ekpene Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

Daily Independent gathered that the dead had arrived the family compound a day earlier for preparation for the burial of their late father, Aniefiok Udokang, an ex-army officer, who passed on in May this year and

his burial fixed for this weekend.

Among the dead are the eldest son of the deceased, Mr. Aniebiet Udokang, a builder, his sister in law and her friend who had arrived the village from Port Harcourt on Tuesday. A relation to the family, Edikan Etim Jack and a tenant, Uwem Udofia, are also among the dead.

Though the possible cause of their demise could not be ascertained, a source close to the family, Jackson Udoudo, who confirmed the death, said it happened early morning of Wednesday when an alarm was raised by the

wife of the deceased that attracted the villagers to the compound where they saw five persons already dead while two persons were gasping for breath.

He said the two were immediately rushed to the Ikot Ekpene hospital for resuscitation, explaining further that one of them was later referred to the University of Uyo Teaching Hospital.

Narrating the incidence, Udoudo said what baffled him much was that the late eldest son had some bruises on his body with blood gushing out of his mouth and nose while Edikan who was

having his bath died in the bathroom.

But another source who did not want to be named said when he got to the scene in the morning, he saw that there was a generator along the corridor. He told Daily Independent that he suspected that the victims could have died from carbon monoxide emissions from the generator.

He disclosed that his suspicion stemmed from the fact that the switch of the generator was in 'on' position signifying that the generator may have stopped on its own when the fuel was exhausted.

Missing \$27m embassy fund: Obiozor distances self

By Ishaya Ibrahim
Senior Correspondent, Lagos

FORMER Nigerian Ambassador to the United States of America (USA), Professor George Obiozor, has denied any link to the alleged missing \$27 million proceed of sale of Nigerian properties in the USA.

Obiozor made the denial following a petition to the senate by a non-governmental organisation, Transform Nigeria Movement, which alleged that Nigerian embassy officials in the USA misappropriated the proceeds of sale of Nigeria's properties in Washington and Maryland. The petitioners alleged that the embassy, upon completion of selling of the properties between 2004 and 2007, left the money in Washington