

alongside his companies: Ibom Power Company,

They all pleaded not guilty to the charge.

tor, Dania Abdullahi, informed the court of a con-

accused continue on the bail earlier granted by the court.

Ebonyi LG boss escapes assassination, as council official shot dead

By Felix Uka,
Correspondent, Abakaliki

THE CRISIS in Ezza South local government council of Ebonyi State, has taken a new twist as the chairman, Lazarus Ogbee on Friday narrowly escaped death when unknown gunmen numbering about four made an attempt on his life.

The suspected assassins were said to have come on a motorcycle, accosting the council boss and opening fire, which hit and killed a man-

agement committee member of the Ezza South East Development Centre, Hon Mike Idor in the process.

A councillor in Ezza South council, Ezekiel Nwode, told newsmen; "Yesterday, between the hours of 12 midnight, when we were in a wake-keep in one of the compounds just near the residence of the council boss, we saw the chairman drive into the venue on high speed, followed by four young men on a motorcycle.

Immediately they got here,

the gunmen opened fire as the chairman alighted from his vehicle".

"Everybody at the wake-keeping started scampering for safety and the gunmen immediately jumped unto their waiting motorcycles and zoomed off. After a while, people started returning to the place and observed that a bullet had hit the Management Committee member of Ezza South East Development Centre who also attended the wake-keep. The chairman, with the help of other

people, rushed the man into a vehicle and brought him to the Federal Teaching Hospital in Abakaliki where he died in the early hours of Friday morning."

Asked if he was able to recognise any of the assailants, Nwode said that they were about four in number adding that it was impossible to identify their faces because of the time of the incident and speed of the operation. He attributed the attack on the political tension in the area.