

current perilous state of both the Nigerian and the global economies. It has also come in spite of all the genuine efforts made by government to dissuade the NLC leadership against the industrial action. The conclusion to draw from this action by Organized Labour is that it is politically motivated.

"The NLC should not compromise its integrity by falling for the manipulative tendencies of political renegades who clearly do not wish Anambra State well. Political charlatans

Commercial driver kills four in Lagos

■John EBHOTA■

A COMMERCIAL bus driver (danfo driver) yesterday crushed four persons to death on Ijora bridge, along Lagos-Apapa Express Road.

The driver ran over the victims while driving against traffic as he fled from law enforcement agents who wanted to arrest.

According to an eyewitness, the driver had earlier hit a person at Ijora Causeway, a

Lagos suburb. In a bid to escape from the scene, he drove against traffic, heading towards Apapa with a full load of passengers.

In the process, the bus had head-on collision with an on-coming car from the Apapa end and a motorcyclist. Both the driver of the car and the motorcyclist died on the spot. Two of the passengers in the bus also lost their lives while other

passengers sustained different degrees of injury.

The driver of the commercial bus, who came out of the carnage unhurt, seeing the havoc he had caused, jumped on the roof of a company from the bridge and made good his escape.

Personnel of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) later arrived at scene and evacuated the wounded to the hospital while the dead were taken to the mortuary.

OPC set to mount security as Ondo awaits appeal verdict on governorship poll

■Damisi Ojo, Akure■

MEMBERS of Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC) in Ondo State at the weekend criticized the unnecessary tension pervading the state over the pending appeal tribunal verdict.

The April 14, 2007 governorship election dispute was prosecuted at the election petitions tribunal headed by Justice Garba Nabaruma and favoured Labour Party (LP) candidate, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko on July 25, 2008.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) flag-bearer, Dr. Olusegun Agagu kicked against the lower tribunal's verdict and appealed the case expected to be decided upon by the appeal panel soon.

Already, there is apprehension in the state over the possi-

ble date of the judgment at the Appeal Court in Benin.

Apparently worried on the development, OPC after its emergency meeting at Ile-Oluji, headquarters of Ile-Oluji/Oke-Igbo Local Government Area urged citizenry to maintain peace before, during and after the appeal court's verdict.

A communiqué issued and signed by its acting State Coordinator, Mr. Rotimi Akinsowo, copy of which was made available to *The Nation* yesterday in Akure, said OPC was ready to collaborate with the state government and security agencies to guarantee peace.

The group threatened that anybody who breaches the public peace after the judgment

would be picked by its members and handed over to the security agents for immediate prosecution.

The communiqué added: "We are also informing the general public that we have mobilized our members to be at alert in responding instantly to any breach of security in any form across the state."

It appealed to members of the public not to entertain fears, but should go about their lawful duties.

Meanwhile, four officers of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) arrested recently in Akure during a clash with men of the Ondo State Police Command have been released.

The Commandant of the security outfit, Mr. Saphere

Mimri Alhassan said the officers were freed after the intervention of the State Police Commissioner, Mr. Charles Dawodu and the Assistant Commandant of Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Mr. Hassan G. Daya.

He, however, alleged that before their release, the NSCDC officials were humiliated by some Police officers, adding that the victim (Akpejunah), a policeman who was on annual leave from Anambra State that was arrested by his men got his freedom immediately he identified himself.

The Commandant added that the NSCDC officers were challenged by the police when they got to the police station, claiming they did not have any right of arrest.

Unknown gunmen kill ex-Akwa Ibom councillor

■Iniobong Ekponta, Uyo■

A FORMER councillor in Itu Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, Mr. Joe Archibong was Thursday night assassinated by yet to be identified gunmen.

The deceased, who hailed from Ikot Obio Atai in Ibiaku Itam, according to family source, was killed by suspected assassins in his 112, Urua Ekpa Road, Itam, Uyo home at about 8.00pm.

The assassins, according an eyewitness account, arrived the

compound and waited inside a beer parlour owned by the late Archibong.

"Yes, they (the assassins) entered the compound with their Toyota Jeep, ordered for some drinks and started discussing in hushed tones until their target arrived."

He said the assassins numbering three with the driver waiting on the wheels, waited like five minutes before they

opened fire on their victim, killing him instantly.

According to the source, there was pandemonium as the gunshots boomed six times while the killers sped off in the middle of the confusion, leaving their victims in the pool of his own blood.

When *The Nation* visited the home of the deceased, grieve had enveloped the sprawling compound with sound of women and children still waiting at back of the house.

The state Commissioner of Police (CP), Mr. Mike Ebiware Zuokumor could not be reached on the incident as at press time as he was said to be addressing a routine security meeting.

Besides, an aide to the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), who picked the phone on behalf of his boss Mr. Gab Ngan simply said: "Oga is not around, he is in a meeting, he will call you when he is through."