

# NEWS

## Two die in Abuja-Kaduna road crash

TWO persons were burnt to death in an auto crash at Dikko junction in Niger on Abuja-Kaduna dual carriage way, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports.

NAN learnt that the accident involving a Peugeot J5 bus loaded with oranges and a broken down trailer occurred at about 3 a.m.

It was also learnt that the driver of the bus and a passenger were burnt to death due to poor emergency response efforts, as only a few security guards of a nearby market were available to put off the fire.

Officials of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) were seen at about 8 a.m. removing the corpses to the Suleja General Hospital and the wreckage of the vehicles.

The police were also on hand to control traffic, which had build up due to the partial blockage of the highway as a result of the accident.

The FRSC Sector Command in Niger, Mr Tuma Dalok, confirmed the accident and said that the corpses had been deposited at the morgue and efforts were being made to contact their families.

He advised drivers against night journeys and dangerous driving, adding that the victims of accidents at night found it difficult to get immediate help.

Dalok urged motorists to exercise great caution at all times by ensuring that their vehicle tyres, lighting systems, brakes and other important accessories were in order before embarking on a journey.

## Housing scheme for House staff

THE Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aminu Tambuwal, has promised to ensure that Assembly workers get a housing scheme.

The Speaker spoke at the end-of-year party for staff.

He said: "I will touch base with what my younger brother requested us to do in collaboration with the management staff of the House in ensuring that all of you as much as possible before you finish service will have a roof over your heads that you can call your personal home."

"We are going to continue to engage the management staff and I give you my word starting from 2012 to ensure that we execute the housing scheme for the staff of the House of Representatives."

"We are indeed very proud of the staff that we have in the House of Representatives not only because of your hard work, but also because of what you stand for, your level of integrity. I have not had any cause to receive any complaint against any worker of the House of Representatives from any quarter for any rude behaviour.

Whatever the House of Representatives has achieved in the past could not have been possible without the commitment that you have put in over the years."

## Senate

THE Senate yesterday summoned the Managing Director of Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company (SNEPCO) over a major oil spill at Bonga deepwater facility.

Also invited over the massive spill are the leaders of National Environmental Standards and Regulation Enforcement Agency (NESREA) and the Chairman of National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA).

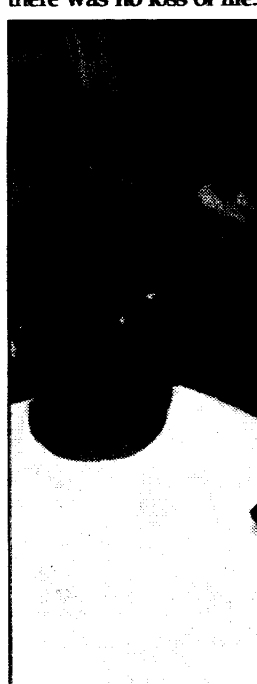
Senate Committee Chairman on Environment and Ecology, Senator Bukola Saraki, announced this at a news conference in Abuja.

Saraki said the action came necessary to allow Shell and both agencies explain measures to contain the spill.

He said he was briefed about a major oil spill of about 200,000 barrel-per-day capacity Bonga deepwater facility proximately 120 kilometres off the Nigerian coast.

The Senator said the spill released over 30,000 barrels of oil off the Nigerian coast.

Saraki said the last time Nigeria had such a high level spillage was from a Mobil Producing facility in 1997. He noted that the good thing was that from the information available to the committee, there was no loss of life.



•Deputy Governor of Ogun State, Mrs. Aisha Buhari, with her are the Vice Governor, Mr. Olu Falana, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Aminu Tambuwal.

## Court

LAGOS State High Court, Ikeja, yesterday dismissed a preliminary objection by former Managing Director of Bank PHB Plc, Mr. Frank Atuche.

The former bank official urged the court to quash an N4.2billion theft charge brought against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

But the court ruled that he must face trial.

Justice Adeniyi Onigbale held that the fact that Atuche is facing trial in other cases did not amount to double jeopardy or abuse of court process.

The cases, he said, are based on the same set of facts, even though the alleged offences were committed at the same period.

Atuche was charged separately with two former colleagues of Bank PHB, Mr. L.