

ones we are negotiating with. By organisation structure,

registration application within four weeks.

pays a tax of about N672,000 per annum."

Vendor hit by Speaker's security aide's stray bullet dies

A NEWSPAPER vendor allegedly hit by a stray bullet fired by a security aide attached to House of Representatives Speaker Femi Gbajabiamila, died last night.

The deceased was allegedly hit in the head.

An eyewitness said there was confusion at the Federal Secretariat, Abuja, when the shot was fired.

The victim was rushed to the National Hospital "unfortunately he has passed away," the witness said.

He added that "it is customary of the speaker to give out cash

From Nicholas Kalu, Abuja

anytime he passes through the area. However, yesterday, his convoy was surrounded by unidentified people.

The Chairman of the Newspapers Vendors Association in FCT, Etim Eteng, said: "The vendors and other hawkers usually run after VIPs and lawmakers whenever they see them. In fact, they can identify the big men by their vehicles. So, the vendors flocked around the speaker's convoy and he gave them some money but a gunshot just went off. The bullet hit Ifeanyi in the head and he fell

down. The fellow who fired the shot said he wanted to fire into the air."

The National Hospital spokesman, Dr Tayo Haastrup, confirmed that the vendor died of gunshot injuries.

Officials of the speaker's office promised to send a statement last night, but they never did as at 11:30pm press time.

Efforts to reach the FCT Police spokesman Mariam Yusuf, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), were abortive.

But a senior officer confirmed the incident, but said it was not a policeman that fired the shot.