

Mark, others mourn *Guardian* reporter

John Alechenu, Abuja

Senate President David Mark and the leader of the Senate, Victor Ndoma-Egba, have expressed shock over the death of the Assistant Political Editor of *The Guardian*, John Abba-Ogbodo.

Abba-Ogbodo died in an auto crash on his way to an official engagement in Awka, Anambra State, on Thursday.

In separate statements in Abuja, on Friday, the lawmakers described the late journalist as a thorough professional, who will be missed.

Mark, who is the senator representing the late journalist's area, was particularly pained that he had not only lost a constituent, but a vibrant professional, who was like a son to him.

A statement signed by his Special Adviser (Media), Mr. Kola Ologbodiyan, said, "The Senate president literally broke down and struggled to fight back tears as the news of the death of *The Guardian* Assistant Political Editor, John Abba-Ogbodo, filtered into town.

"Mark, in an unusual subdued voice, lamented the untimely demise of Ogbodo,

whom he described as an accomplished journalist and a worthy son of Benue State."

The president of the Senate noted that the late Ogbodo was a vibrant, versatile and resourceful journalist, who was professionally minded at all times.

"Death is an inevitable end. We don't plan for it. It must come when it shall. But frankly speaking, this is one death so cruel.

"I sincerely sympathise with the immediate family, *The Guardian* house and the entire Nigerian media for this painful loss," Mark said.

Speaking in the same vein, the Senate leader said he received the news with utmost shock.

"His untimely exit is such a great loss to parliamentary reporting in Nigeria. I pray that God grants his media and nuclear families the fortitude to bear this unfortunate loss."

Also, the Deputy President of the Senate, Ike Ekweremadu, has described the death of Ogbodo as a grievous loss.

This was contained in a statement, signed by his Special Adviser on Media, Uche Anichukwu, in Abuja, on Friday.