

C'River APC chair, six others die in Ebonyi crashes

CHUKWUDI AKASIKE,
MUDIAGA AFFE,
ADA WODU and
EDWARD NNACHI

DISASTER

accident in Okavango near Onueke in the Ezza South Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

CHAIRMAN of the Cross River State chapter of the All Progressives Congress, Dr. Mathew Achigbe, was among four other persons who lost their lives to a road accident in Ebonyi State on Saturday.

This occurred just as the decomposing body of another APC chieftain earlier kidnapped in Rivers State, Samuel Nwanjoku, was found on Saturday.

The accident involved two vehicles, a Toyota Sports Utility Vehicle and Toyota Camry (Spider) along the Akpohia/Abakaliki Expressway. The incident occurred 24 hours after two other persons died in another

An eyewitness, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told one of our correspondents that officials of the Federal Road Safety Corps took the corpses to the Mater Misericordiarie Hospital, Afikpo.

Images of at least four mangled bodies in a damaged vehicle were displayed on a Facebook page checked by one of our correspondents.

The Cross River APC Publicity Secretary, Mr. Bassey Ita, did not pick up calls to his phone when contacted.

However, the party's state Vice Chairman, Mr. John Ochala, said the news came as a shock to party members.

He said, "He went for a Catholic Church programme and was on his way to Obubra when the incident happened. He was to meet with the party leaders in Obubra Local Government Area and the leaders were already gathered and waiting in his house when the news filtered in that he died in a fatal road accident. Everybody is in a state of shock. We cannot make any comment for now."

Also, the National Vice Chairman of the APC, South-South, Chief Hilliard Eta, confirmed the development.

Eta stated, "It is true, we have lost our state chairman. We are very saddened by the loss of our chairman to road accident on his way back from a Catholic Knight programme in which he was a leader. We are saddened that we cannot have an official reaction now."

"Some other people also died in the accident but we do not have the identities of those who died in the vehicle. I do not think anybody survived in that accident. It is an unfortunate development," he added.

Rivers APC mourns

Nwanjoku, who was the Organising Secretary of the party in the Ikwerre Local Government Area of the state, was earlier kidnapped on Sunday, November 11, 2017.

The deceased was said to have been shot in the chest and behind by his assailants before his corpse was dumped in a stream at Omanwa, where he was abducted.

It was gathered that the APC chieftain was kidnapped alongside one Moses, whose whereabouts, according to the Deputy Director of Ikwerre Youth Movement

International, Dike Bekwele, remains unknown.

Bekwele said, "They went for a harvest in Apani, Ikwerre LGA, and on their way back, Nwanjoku and Moses were abducted at Omanwa. It was also at Omanwa that Nwanjoku was killed and his body dumped in a stream."

"His body was already decomposing when it was found. He was shot in the chest and behind and his body has been taken to the mortuary."

He described his death as politically motivated and accused the People Democratic Party of masterminding the act.

"He was the brother to Azuibuike Nwanjoku, member representing Ikwerre LGA in the House of Assembly. He was kidnapped last week and murdered. He was also the Organising Secretary of APC in Ikwerre Local Government Area."

"It is not far from