

News around the City

Crime, Court & Living

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Police confirm 7 dead, 5 injured in Abia auto crash

From **Okey Sampson**,
Umuahia and
Ogbonnaya Ndukwe,
Aba

THE Abia State Police Command has confirmed that seven people died and five others injured in an auto accident which occurred at the Ukpakiri village, near Aba, Abia State, along the Ikot Ekpene Highway.

It was gathered that a Sienna Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV), operated by Akwa Ibom Integrated Transport, had a head-on collision with a tipper lorry loaded with sharp sand, resulting in the death of seven passengers on board the SUV. The accident left five people

seriously injured and they were immediately rushed to the hospital.

Local residents said heavy traffic, which had waned along the busy highway when it got bad, had returned since it began receiving attention from the federal government.

They alleged that vehicles plying the major link between Aba commercial city in Abia and Ikot Ekpene, Akwa Ibom State, these days, drive excessively, despite the large concentration of communities living and doing business along the road and appealed to the authorities to extend the dualisation of the Ukpakiri/Opobo junction, Ogor Hill axis of the

highway to safeguard lives.

Confirming the incident in a statement, the command's Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Maureen Chinaka, said the accident "happened

at Ukpakiri village, along Ikot Ekpene Road in Obingwa LGA.

"Seven unidentified persons died, and five sustained injuries. The scene of the accident has been visited, dead bod-

ies deposited at the mortuary, injured people rushed to the hospital, and exhibits recovered to the police station. Investigation is ongoing", the statement added.

Money laundering: EFCC opens case against ex-gov Obiano

From **Godwin Tsa** Abuja

THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), yesterday, opened its case against the immediate past governor of Anambra State, Willie Obiano, by calling two witnesses who testified before the Abuja division of the Federal High Court.

Obiano is facing a nine-count charge the anti-graft agency preferred against him, bordering on alleged N4 billion fraud. The EFCC told the court that

then state government. The state government maintains various accounts with our bank and one of such accounts was for security votes.

"There was really nothing special about the security votes account. It was like every other account that we managed for the state government. The account was mostly funded by the office of the Accountant General of the state and bulk of the funds came from Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) of

the state. Payments into the account were made on a weekly basis and all transactions out of the account were always based on the advice of the account operators.

"The payments we made out of the account were to various entities and corporate organisations. We supplied documents containing names of all the beneficiaries to the EFCC," the witness said.

(Continued on www.sunnewsonline.com)

ABSUTH workers protest unpaid salaries

From **Okey Sampson**,

Umuahia
should be no story on why you should not be paid"