

# Ex-Eaglet, Six Others Die in Bauchi Auto Crash

Tragedy struck Nigerian football fraternity yesterday, when seven players of amateur side Wunti FC of Bauchi lost their lives in a ghastly motor accident. Amongst those that lost their lives was former Golden Eaglet Manga Mohammed.

The dashing winger, who failed to break into the senior national team, played alongside such names like Wilson Oruma, Celestine Babayaro and Nwankwo Kanu in the victorious Japan'93 squad.

The team was on its way to Kano to honour its league tie with BON FC when the incident occurred.

According to eyewitness accounts, the accident, which happened at Gubu Dam just 14 km away from Bauchi, was caused when the front tie of the bus conveying the team for the 2pm fixture burst.

There were 16 players and three officials in the bus when the accident happened.

The club's Team Manager Idris Abdulahi who broke the sad news yesterday, said the players have since been

## • NFA suspends Bauchi matches

buried in accordance with Muslim rites.

The names of the dead players include Adamu Bebet, Ubale Maidawa, Murtala Zakari and Jibrin Abdullahi. Two others died later in hospital.

Meanwhile, in response to the tragic incident, the Nigeria Football Association (NFA) has suspended all matches involving teams from Bauchi State indefinitely.

Acting FA. Fanny Amun, who made scribe, announcement yesterday, said that the postponement is to allow the state FA recover from the unfortunate incident.

And in a related development the state's FA chairman, Mallam Aminu Maigari, has announced a 10-day mourning period.

Meanwhile, the management of Lobi Stars FC is under-fire for under performance and is likely to be

## • As Benue Dep Gov slams Lobi

changed any moment from now.

Deputy Governor of Benue State, Ajene Ogiri told reporters yesterday in Abuja that despite good funding that the club has enjoyed from the state government, it has failed to deliver.

He was particularly angry that neither the club's local appearance in the Globacom League nor its continental outing has been inspiring.

"Lobi is well funded more than the Super Eagles yet we have not seen any good result to show for the investment," said the Deputy Governor.

He, however, assured that something drastic would be

carried out soon to turn around the fortunes of the club presently led by former Super Eagles player, Dominic Iorfa.

Lobi along with Heartland FC of Owerri were bundled out of the qualifying round of the CAF Confederations Cup.

## FA Elections: Lulu Denies Govt Ties

*From Juliana Taiwo  
in Abuja*

The Director of Sports in the Federal Capital Territory and a chairmanship aspirant for the board of the Nigeria Football Association (NFA) Alhaji Sani Lulu has denied reports making the rounds that he is the anointed one for the FA hot seat by the Federal Ministry of Sports and Social Development.

Addressing a press conference yesterday in Abuja Lulu said this was his third outing having contested in 1999 and 2002 all in his capacity as a civil servant and on each occasion he was supported by all important stakeholders, stressing that

a sustainable growth within the sector.

"A basic ingredient crucial for the attainment of attractive administration, you will agree with me, is transparency and openness in the conduct of business with all relevant stakeholders.

"Transparency shall be my administration's abiding principles and philosophy," he said.

Meanwhile, another aspirant Lumumba Adeh has said that his recent appointment as Chairman of

