

NULGE Chairman, 4 Others Die in Road Accident

Tragedy struck yesterday in Ekiti State following the death of the Chairman of state chapter of the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE), Mr. Ayo Afolalu, and four others died in a road accident along Owo-Benin road.

Afolalu, who alongside his driver, Personal Assistant and two unidentified National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members, were on an official trip to Benin, Edo State at the instance of NULGE, when the incident occurred.

Details of the incident were sketchy at press time, but sources hinted that Afolalu's Honda Accord car was allegedly overran by a moving lorry, carrying a log of trees which eventually squeezed the occupants in the vehicle.

Though the occupants of the car died on the spot, the incident, according to a source, happened few kilometres to Benin City.

It was gathered that Afolalu had left Ado-Ekiti, the Ekiti State capital yesterday morning alongside a delegation of the Women Wing of the asso-

EKITI

From Toba Suleiman

in Ado-Ekiti

ciation, who were conveyed by a Hilux bus for a certain union matter in the South-south state.

Also, Chairman of the Nigeria Labour Congress, (NLC), Mr. Ayodeji Aluko, confirmed to journalists on telephone that the former NULGE boss died in the crash.

Meanwhile, his remains and that of other victims were said to have been deposited in the mortuary at the University of

Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH).

When contacted, the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the

NYSC in Ekiti State, Mrs Nike Olusoji, confirmed that two female corps members were involved.

She said the NYSC had informed Governor Kayode Fayemi about the incident and that the Corps was making

contact to establish what actually caused the accident and the identities of the corps members involved.

Security Stepped up at Yakubu Gowon Airport

PLATEAU

From Seriki Adinoyi in Jos

communities to ensure that passengers were protected around the airport environs on their ways in and out of the airport.

Opotu disclosed this to journalists yesterday when he took them on tour of the air-

port to access the on-going construction work to improve the facility level of the terminal building.

He said: "Following the effort of the Ministry of Aviation to improve the facility level of some airports across the country, Yakubu Gowon Airport is currently undergoing expansion, facelift, and improvement in the facilities at the airport to

meet passengers' need."

He added that the re-modelling would involve the car park shifted away from the main terminal building, while proper scrutiny was done right at the entrance gate to the airport to reduce the level of casualty in the case of any eventuality, noting that the security situation had caused a drop in the movement of passengers through the airport from 82,393 in 2010 to 50,612 in 2011.

Describing the on-going work as a re-modelling of the airport, the Airport Manager said the work was progressing rapidly.

He added that "on completion, the re-modelled terminal building would have an increase of passengers' capacity from 250 persons to over 600 persons, while the VIP Lounge's capacity has been raised from 25 to 120", adding that to its aesthetic appreciation of the landscape, the new Terminal Building

Nigeria, C'wealth Countries Partner on Non-oil Sector Devt

Minister of Trade and Investment, Mr. Olusegun Aganga, yesterday said Nigeria would partner other Commonwealth countries in the development of the nation's non-oil sector.

He stated this at the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Regional Workshop on Export Competitiveness Strategies in Abuja.

Eight countries are currently



From Yemi Akinsuyi

in Abuja

participating in the three-day event. They are Nigeria, Singapore, Kenya, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Gambia and Uganda

Aganga, who was represented

by the Minister of State for Trade and Investment, Dr. Samuel Ortom, said that the ministry had embarked on far-reaching reforms to improve Nigeria's business climate, adding that the target of the ministry is to improve Nigeria's competitiveness ranking from its present 133 out of 183 countries to a modest top 30, over the next three years.

He said: "There is no doubt that non-oil exports play a very critical role in the economic transformation, development and growth of African countries. Indeed, exports

tive in the international marketplace is certainly one of the basic foundations for economic growth. The main thrust of the current government in Nigeria is premised on an economic transformation agenda which includes a very aggressive and effective export drive.

"Non-oil export holds the key to Nigeria's future economic greatness, and the speedy attainment of Mr. President's transformation agenda.

Accordingly, Government, at the very highest levels, is willing and ready to provide as much support as may be needed towards the

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