

Ijaw youth leader, one other killed in boat mishap

TRAGEDY struck yesterday in the Nembe creek of Bayelsa State as two persons, among them the president of the Ijaw Youth Council (IYC) worldwide, Mr. Tekenah Beregha, were reported dead in a boat mishap.

The tragic incident, which occurred at about 1am in the windy Nembe creek near Tombi some distance away from Nembe, was blamed on poor visibility.

Beregha who is also the vice chairman of Nembe Local Government Area of Bayelsa State some of his close associates told *Sunday Vanguard* was traveling to Nembe for the burial of the four councilors slain in January 2005 alongside eight others while on a peace mission to the disputed Obioku settlement by unknown gunmen.

It was gathered that the late IYC president had sailed in an official boat alongside three others including the councilor representing ward 8 in Nembe local government area, Mr. Akikpolu Gbenga who also lost his life in the accident. They were said to have travelled at about 12.30 mid night as against the ban by the state maritime union that no boat should ply the water waterways after 5pm.

The speed boat in which they were traveling hit a tree which tore it to pieces while negotiating a sharp bend in the creek at Tombi close to Nembe.

The youth leader and the councilor said to be of both Ijaw and Yoruba extraction allegedly died on the spot while the driver and another occupant who survived the accident were seriously injured.

As at the time of filing in this report, the corpses of the duo had been deposited at the Nembe mortuary.

Reacting to the sad incident, the national spokesman of the Ijaw Youth Council (IYC), Comrade Peter Ajube, described it as pathetic, adding that a delegation had been dispatched to Nembe by council with a view to getting first hand information about the accident.

When contacted the state

police public relations officer, Mr. Iniobong Ibokette (DSP), confirmed the incident describing it as "most unfortunate."

The late Beregha was elected to replace Comrade Oyinfie Jonjon after the latter was impeached in a controversial circumstance with the backing of the state government which deployed armed soldiers to the IYC secretariat backed by armoured tanks.

Delta 2007: Osammor backs Obielum

THE governorship aspiration of Chief Godwill Obielum on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, is the best and brightest thing that can happen to Delta State in 2007. This assessment was contained in a telephone conversation with former Minister of Police Affairs and currently, member, PDP Board of Trustees, Prof. Emma Osammor in Abuja.

Osammor who was also former Minister of Labour, said no aspirant in the race in Delta State could compare with Obielum. According to him, "Obielum is a very capable, cool, calculated and intelligent man who will ensure peace and even development in Delta State as governor", adding, "he is a respecter of persons. Obielum is focused, he is a man who seeks advice from elders and also respects elders. He is the right man to run for the governorship position in Delta State at this

time", Osammor, who is the oldest member of the PDP Board of Trustees said.

The former Minister of Justice of the Federation further enjoined the people of Delta State to support the aspiration of Obielum as the countdown to the elections begins. He said the aspirant was a hardworking man who had touched the lives of many people as a private person and therefore would do more as governor. "He is considerate and hardworking and is capable of uniting the people of the state by ensuring equitable distribution of resources", Osammor advised.

The PDP BOT member referred to the humility of Obielum which he said was infectious and had endeared him to many people across the country. "Our support for Obielum's aspiration is total and we will do all in our power to ensure he is governor of Delta State in 2007", he emphasized.