

## EFCC asks court to refuse Nnamani's firms

By Innocent Anaba

**L**AGOS—THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), has asked a Federal High Court sitting in Lagos, to refuse the application by some business concerns, allegedly owned by former Enugu State governor, Dr Chimaroke Nnamani, in which they are challenging an order of the court, for the forfeiture of the companies assets.

Justice Abubakar Tijani, the presiding judge had following an application by the EFCC, early in the year granted an order of interim forfeiture of the assets of the affected companies. The affected companies are Rainbow-net Nig Ltd, Hillgate Nig Ltd, Cosmos 1005.5 FM, Renaissance University Teaching Hospital, Renaissance University, and Mea Mater Elizabeth High School, Rock City Group Plc, Cookie Plc, Rainbow Associate Llc, Ferguson Group Plc, Jasmine Holding Corporation Llc, Inter National Associates, C & C Project Llc, Elizabeth Group Llc, Rainbow Nigeria Ltd and Jefferson Llc.

Mrs Chinole Nwigwe and Davie Nwigwe, directors in some of the companies were also affected by the order.

But counsel to the respondent, Chief Chris Uche (SAN), had filed an application, praying the court to vacate the interim order, contending that the said order was hurting the business concerns, which he further contended were not informed before the order was sought and granted.

EFCC counsel, Mr Kevin Uzozie in the counter affidavit in opposition to the application for the vacation of the interim order, averred that the commission will suffer great hardship if the order seeking to vacate the order for interim forfeiture is granted.

He further averred that the essence of the forfeiture order was to prevent the companies and its directors from further destruction of the records and assets of the company.

The averment says, "the properties that are subject of the interim order were proceed of money laundering committed by the individuals and directors of the companies.

## FG urged to caution Adedibu

By Sam Eyoboka & Ito Udofia

**L**AGOS—THE Federal Government has been called upon to call the strong man of Ibadan politics, Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu to order and never make him a "sacred cow."

Reacting to the on-going impasse between the chief and his faction against Chief Omowale Kuye, as the representative of the Olubadan of Ibadan, Oba Samuel Odulana Odugbade I at the Eid-el-Fitri praying ground, the Catholic Archbishop of Lagos, Cardinal Anthony Olubunmi Okogie, stated that the alleged disturbance by Adedibu's boys at the Eid-el-Fitri praying ground is tantamount to disobeying Allah, and smacked of disrespect for Allah and humanity.

"It was scandalous, outrageous and disrespect for Allah and humanity," the cardinal stated adding "if a human being in the like of Adedibu, an ordinary mortal can defy Allah in a praying ground, that is the highest point of disregard and disrespect."

In the press statement issued by the Archdiocesan Director, of Social Communications, Very

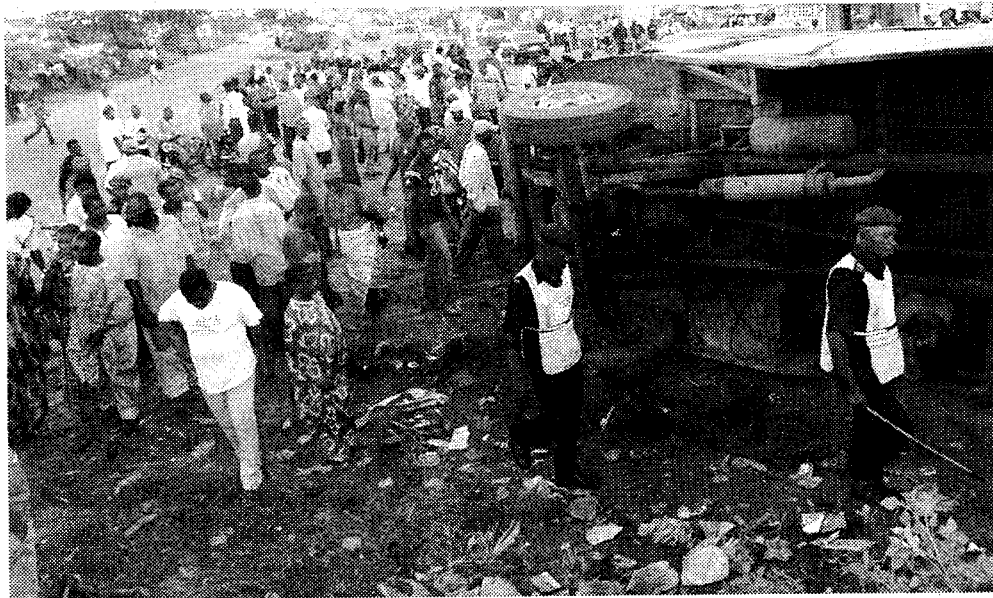
Rev. Msgr. Gabriel Osu, Cardinal Okogie further said that Adedibu's refusal to heed the invitation of the Olubadan to iron out the discord ostensibly on the excuse that he had an engagement in Abuja smacked of great disrespect for the revered traditional ruler in the calibre of the Olubadan of Ibadan.

He therefore called on the Federal Government and President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, who is committed to the rule of law to take drastic action against Adedibu but, added that the president should take such actions, not only in Oyo State, but throughout the whole country "to serve as deterrent to those law breakers in the name of god-fathers."

In his words: "It is high time Adedibu is called to order. Is there no government again in this country and are there no security agents?" he asked, adding:

"The days of the military and former President Olusegun Obasanjo when they honoured sacred cows, (god-fathers) are over. Honour should be given to whom honour is due but not dishonourables", he stressed.

As he puts it; "Such outrageous display of arrogance and disrespect should not be taken lightly.



**AUTO CRASH:** A 911 Bus with registration No XC 765 GGE carrying passengers from Iyana Ipaja to Oshodi somersaulted at Shogunle Lagos yesterday in which one person died while several others were injured. The Lagos State Ambulance Service, LASMA, and some Police officers were also at the scene. Photo: Joe Akintola Photo Editor.

## Lagos assures on Lagos-Ikorodu bridge

By Olasunkanmi Akoni

**L**AGOS—THE Lagos State Government has said that the ongoing rehabilitation of the damaged Lagos-Ikorodu Bridge will be concluded by the end of December, 2007.

It also declared that only six houses would be affected in the demolition plan to pave way for the extension of Oba of Lagos palace as against the earlier reported 100 houses, saying that arrangements have been concluded to relocate the affected owners to a 32 block of flats at Adeniji-Adele area of Lagos Island.

The state Commissioner for Information and Strategy Mr Opeyemi Bamidele, who led three other commissioners from the ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development, Health, and Special Duties in company of other special advisers at media briefing yesterday, appealed to the people of the state to bear with state government on the latest development saying the measures were part of programmes to transform the state into a Mega City status. "therefore we need your understanding."

Speaking on the failed bridge, the Special Adviser to the state Governor on Works and Infrastructure Engr Ganiyu Johnson, explained that the construction firm working at the site is working round the clock in order to ensure early completion of the rehabilitated bridge. He disclosed that final work is expected to be concluded in three months, that is sometime in December, 2007.

However, in his own address, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Transportation, Mr. Kayode Opeifa attributed the slow pace of work to the harassment and intimidation being experienced on the part of the public especially the law enforcement agents who are fond of breaking traffic rules and regulations.

He added that unless the generality of the public cooperates with the state government on the project, there would not be meaningful result.

Opeifa who brought photographs of where two members of Lagos Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) were brutalised by military and police personnel, said that plans were already on to meet with the military and other security agents to discuss the way forward and the need by security agents to obey traffic rules and regulations.

On the expansion of the Oba of Lagos' Palace, the Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Mr. Francisco Abosedo, explained that the proposed expansion was part of the implementation of the Lagos Mega City as well as the administration's renewed drive to promote the investment and tourism potentials of the state.

He noted that for a rapidly growing city, like Lagos State, with a population of 16.86 million, the proposed expansion is capable of increasing the IGR of the state from its present state tremendously.

While allaying their fears, the commissioner appealed to concerned residents whose houses are to be demolished to be calm and maintain peace in the area, advising them not to underestimate the employment potentials of the project, "for every 1000 tourists that visit Lagos, at least 200 people will be gainfully engaged, thereby earning income."

"Also the expansion has a far-reaching advantages to the future of the Mega City status and its tourist potentials."

## Fajemirokun to raise fund for church

**L**AGOS—THE Chairman of AIICO Insurance, Chief Dele Fajemirokun, is set to raise funds for Ekotedo Methodist Church to fight the perennial flood that has continued to plague the church over the years due to the Ogunpa river which overruns its banks into the church.

Chairman planning committee of the church's adult harvest for 2007, Mr Femi Soyombo said the church's adult harvest for the year, which comes up on Sun-

day November 4, has been planned to be a fund raiser with which the church's major problems can be tackled. Some of the problems according to him include the construction of an administrative block in the church premises and procurement of a standard generator.

The harvest committee chairman revealed that Chief Fajemirokun will be the chief launcher at the harvest while other prominent Nigerians have also pledged to support the church.

## One feared dead, several injured in Lagos autocrash

By Joe Akintola

**L**AGOS—ONE person died on the spot yesterday and several others were seriously injured when a Mercedes Benz lorry with registration number XC 765 GGE lost control at Shogunle along Agege Motor road and somersaulted.

Sympathizers, LASMA and some police officers rushed some of the injured victims to a private hospital there in Shogunle before the arrival of the Lagos State Ambulance Ser-

vice whom on arrival carried the victims of the accident from the private hospital; and headed for General Hospital Ikeja and some to Gbagada hospital.

In another development one young man died on a moving train at Shogunle yesterday and the LASMA removed the corpse of the accident of the 911 tragedy. Sympathizers complained and lamented that the government should put a check on the attitude of some of these 911 drivers because a lot of them are often drunk when driving.

## Average of 5-10 corpses are removed from Lagos roads

By Olasunkanmi Akoni

**L**AGOS—AN average of five to 10 unidentified corpses would be removed daily by health officials from different parts of Lagos State according to Commissioner for Health, Dr. Jide Idris. He told reporters yesterday that most of such corpses are given mass burial. The commissioner who was commenting on the incident that happened last week at a community in Agboyi-Ketu Local Development Council (LCDA) where a vehicle convey-

ing corpses that had been deposited in the mortuary the past three to four months suddenly broke down and abandoned.

The vehicle was hired by the mortuary department of Lagos Island Maternity to convey the unclaimed corpses for mass burial. The vehicle was eventually towed away from the area.

Idris, however, assured members of the public that the state government had taken measures to prevent future occurrence, as