

Four Dockworkers crushed to death at Apapa port complex

By Ifeyinwa Obi

FOUR dockworkers were yesterday crushed to death at ENL terminals, Apapa port by a faulty crane. The victims who were identified as Yusuf Ajadi, Akin Ajuwale and Aliu Olaleye were discharging fish from a vessel Green Majestic Nassau, with the IMO number 8614039, when the accident occurred. A fourth worker was crushed by an

ambulance when irate dockworkers of the ENL Consortium went on the rampage protesting the crane accident.

The ambulance was subsequently set ablaze after which the dockworkers went violent, attacking ENL officers and properties, vandalizing office equipments and cars worth millions of naira before bringing all business activities to a halt. The scene was

littered with bloodstain.

The commissioner of police port authority (PAP) Mr. J.O. Uzuagbunam told journalists that the death, though sad, was an accident. The commissioner who ensured that his men were in control of the crisis at every given point, however refrained from apportioning blames on the embattled dockworkers, saying that, he perceived their reactions from pent up anger. "This is sad, but it is an accident. As for the reaction of the dockworkers, I think one should understand it is coming from pent up anger. what happened was an accident and the dockworkers were angered by the incident", He added.

Uzuagbunam appealed to the workers to remain calm while the corpse were being removed.

However, the protesting workers accused the ENL Consortium of enslaving the dockworkers.

They claimed that ENL Consortium have no condition of service even as there were no safety equipment for work.

Contrary to the claims of the vice chairman of ENL Consortium that the workers were being paid living wages, the dockworkers said that they have never received such allowances.

The workers also claimed that they were being denied medical allowances and urged the Federal Government to revert the concessioning of the port to private operators.

FG declares Wednesday, Friday and Monday 24th public holiday

ABUJA — The Federal Government has declared Wednesday, 19th March, public holiday to mark the 2008 Id-el-Maulud. Good Friday, 21st March and Easter Monday 24th March has also been declared Public Holidays for Easter celebration for Christian faithful by the Federal Government.

Minister of Interior, Major-General Godwin Abbe (rtd), who made the announcement yesterday in Abuja on behalf of the Federal

Government, wishes all Nigerians at home and abroad joyous celebrations.

He enjoined all the Muslims and Christian faithful to reflect on the symbolic lives of Prophet Mohammed and Jesus Christ respectively, whom he said are being celebrated through these festivals. "I also enjoined you to adhere to their teaching as enshrined in the Holy Books and also pray for continued peace and progress in the nation", he said.

Agbarho old students meet

OLD students of Agbarho Grammar School (St. Enda's College) Agbarho meet today at 12B, Abuja Close, Agbara Estate, Agbara, Ogun State at 3.00 p.m. Acting president, Chief Lucky Arhere in a statement thanked all those who

contributed one way or the other to the successful burial of the late president, Navy Captain Anthony Imiren (rtd) and urged members to be punctual at today's meeting as crucial matters have been lined up for discussion.