

## FCT Probe: Senators turned back from ex-VP's guest house

By Emmanuel Aziken and  
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**A**BUJA—SENATORS investigating the affairs of the Federal Capital Territory were yesterday turned back from entering the former official guest house of the Vice-President bought over by Alhaji Idris Othman, an asso-

ciate of former FCT Minister Mallam Nasir El-Rufai.

The Senators who met the brick wall were on a tour of some projects in the Federal Capital also visited the Lower Usman Dam and the Garki Hospital and a plot formerly owned by the National Board of Technical Education (NBTE).

## 16 feared dead in auto crash

By Simon Ebegbulem

**B**ENIN-CITY—SIXTEEN persons were feared dead yesterday while others sustained degrees of injury in a ghastly motor accident on the Akure/Benin express road.

The incident which occurred at about 7:30am, created panic in the area as members of the community tried to save the lives of the victims. It was learnt that one of the vehicles, a Volkswagen bus, with registration number FG 358 G45 was on its way to

Benin while the Peugeot car with the registration number BW 550 was heading towards Akure.

*Vanguard* learnt that the corpses were deposited at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH) while three others who survived the accident, are receiving treatment at the emergency ward of the hospital.

The Unit Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) in the area, Mr Uzo Chukwuma, attributed the cause of the accident to over speeding.

ment as the Senate Committee on Environment and Ecology expressed concern that the country could lose billions of dollars from the diversion of direct foreign investments from the country on account of climatic problems.

They spoke at a public hearing on a bill to establish the National Climate Change Commission at the National Assembly in Abuja yesterday.

However strong opposition to the bill was expressed by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) which lamented that its implementation could lead to double taxation for electricity

production that has to be accepted and planned for by all nations, the failure to do which will hasten on a global scale, the calamity and disaster now afflicting only a few

## Election cases should end at S/Court—Fawehinmi

By Victor Ahiuma-Young

**L**AGOS—LAWYER and human rights activist, Chief Gani Fawehinmi (SAN), has advised members of the Presidential Committee on Electoral Reform (ERC) to recommend that all electoral cas-

"Nigeria and Africa as a whole are losing out on billions of dollars that would have been directed at inflow of capital investment."

es should terminate at the Supreme Court, even as he called for the restructuring of the apex court to make it more effective.

Receiving members of ERC and leadership of Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), who paid him a visit yesterday, Chief Fawehinmi disagreed with those who believe the government of Alhaji Musa Yar'Adua is following due process and the rule of law, saying inasmuch as the government is not following the nation's constitution to the letter, it is not a government of rule of law.

According to Chief Fawehinmi, in a situation where only the Presidential election petition ends up at the Supreme Court is not right and does not give justice to the litigants and declared that every dissatisfied litigant in an election petition at all levels should have opportunity to take his or her case up to the Supreme Court.

## NNPC probe: Reps vow to summon Yar'Adua, OBJ if...

By Tordue Salem

**A**BUJA—THE 26-member House of Representatives Committee investigating the activities of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and its subsidiaries from 1999-2007, has said it would not hesitate to invite President Umaru Yar'Adua and his predecessor Chief Olusegun Obasanjo to answer questions on their stewardship in the years under review.

The Committee said this while declaring the probe open to newsmen at the National Assembly Complex yesterday.

The Committee also pledged to engage international technocrats and foreign experts in the energy sector to help lawmakers in unraveling the hidden records of transaction in the energy sector for all those years, also vowing through its statement not to spare NNPC joint-venture Partners, like Chevron-Texaco, Shell and Mobil.

## Protest over killing paralyses activities in Enugu

By Tony Eike

**E**NUGU—SOCIAL and economic activities were paralysed in Ogui and Asata areas of Enugu City in the early hours of yesterday following violent protest by commercial bus drivers and conductors over the killing of a conductor by the police Wednesday night.

The deceased simply identified as Obiajulu in his twenties met his untimely death when a policeman from Ogui Police Station fired at him while chasing hoodlums at a notorious hideout somewhere in Obiagu.

An eyewitness said the bus conductor who was on his way home after the day's duty was hit by the bullet fired by the policemen who were said to have fired into the air apparently to scare the hoodlums who were wanted for gambling.