

2 die after attending wake keep in Ebonyi

By Dennis Agbo

BAKALIKI—TWO men have reportedly died mysteriously at Ezzi area after attending a wake keep, prelude to a burial of their kinsman at Alike-Aba in Ebonyi Local Government Area of Ebonyi state.

Though the cause of their death could not be ascertained since no autopsy was conducted, but the wives and relations of the deceased insisted that they were poisoned at the wake keep.

The deceased, Simon Aleke and another identified simply as Nwankwo, were said to be healthy and suffered no ailment by the time they set out for the wake keep but died suddenly after they returned. A community leader, Mr. Raphael Ogodo, has meanwhile called for full investigation into their sudden death.

The State Police Command, through its spokesman, ASP Chris Anyanwu said it is yet to receive any report on the incident.

Ogodo, the community leader lamented that "after attending the wake keep, both of them returned home very sick, even though I cannot say exactly what led to

their mysterious death, but all efforts to ensure that they were resuscitated proved abortive before we decided to take them to a native doctor, where they both gave up the

ghost at the same time."

Wife of Nwankwo, one of the deceased, Mrs. Sabina Nwankwo, narrated that her husband was healthy before leaving for the wake keep.

Enugu PDP denies barring council chairmen from second term

By Tony Edike

ENUGU—THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Enugu state said yesterday, that it has not barred the 17 Local Government Council Chairmen in the state from seeking a second term under the platform of the party.

The party said meanwhile, that there would be no automatic ticket for any of the incumbent council chairmen, who wish to seek re-election, explaining that the party's position was that all

the contestants must pass through the selection process as contained in the party's guideline.

The State Publicity Secretary of the party, Dr. Okey Eze, who made this disclosure while reacting to a media report that the party had barred serving local government chairmen in the state from seeking second term, said any of the 17 council chairmen, all of who were elected under the PDP and the over 200 aspirants, who have already been screened by the party would

be made to pass through the process of party primaries, if ongoing attempts at reaching consensus among the contestants failed.

He described as unfortunate and misleading the statement credited to the Chairman of the party in Nsukka Local Government Area, Mr. Oliver Ajibo to the effect that the State Working Committee of PDP had stopped the serving local government council chairman from running for second term.