

Enugu lawmaker dies after auto crash claimed wife, 2 drivers

By Tony Edilke

ENUGU—THE lawmaker representing Awgu South Constituency in Enugu State House of Assembly, Hon. Emmanuel Maduabum, died yesterday after two weeks in coma, following a ghastly auto crash along Enugu – Port Harcourt expressway that earlier claimed three lives, including his wife, his driver and another unidentified commuter bus driver.

The lawmaker was confirmed dead by doctors at the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, UNTH, Enugu, who had battled to save his life since the accident occurred a fortnight ago. He was said to have gone into coma and could hardly speak because of severe injuries he sustained in the crash.

A 608 Mass Transit bus had collided with the Mercedes Benz car of the lawmaker who was returning to Enugu after a meeting with members of his Awgu South Constituency that weekend and both drivers of the vehicles and the lawmaker's wife died instantly.

Corpses of his wife and the two drivers were deposited at the UNTH mortuary, while he was admitted at the hospital for treatment but his condition was said to be critical throughout his stay at the intensive care unit. Some of his colleagues who visited him in the hospital said he would require the special grace of God to survive the crash.

Members of the state assembly suspended their sitting after news of their colleague's death was received by the speaker, Rt. Hon. Eugene Odoh, yesterday.

The speaker was said to

have led the lawmakers to the hospital to confirm the information and made arrangement with the hospital authorities to preserve his corpse, pending his interment.

Vanguard learnt yesterday

that the deceased lawmaker would have been flown overseas for proper medical attention as reportedly recommended by doctors at UNTH, but his family could not meet the huge financial involvement.

Fear of dissolution grips Ebonyi PDP exco

By Dennis Agbo

ABAKALIKI—Apprehensions have gripped members of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP in Ebonyi State as story made the rounds yesterday that the state executive committee of the party in the state, led by Mr. Dave Umahi, has been dissolved and a caretaker committee put in place.

The office of PDP national chairman, however, said the rumour was not true. Special Assistant to Dr. Okwesilieze Nwodo on media, Mr. Igwebuike Abonyi in correspondence with *Vanguard*, said the rumour was false and made no further comment.

But the former Chairman of Afikpo North local government council, Mr. Idu Igariwey, told reporters in a telephone chat that he would not be surprised if the dissolution was announced by the national office of the party as a follow up to Abuja parley of the party stake-

holders where the present PDP chairman was said to have witnessed heavy attacked by opposing faction of the party in the state, led by Igariwey and Adol Awam, who are believed to be loyal to former Governor Sam Egwu.

When contacted to confirm the story, the state PDP chairman Dave Umahi, said: "I dey kampe. This is one of the handiworks of our enemies who wish us evil." Dave Umahi himself had in a meeting with journalists, accepted that he was in the eye of the storm at the Abuja parley where the national office of the party had tried to hear the grievances of opposition party members in the state, adding, however, that his group carried the day at the Abuja parley.

Vanguard authoritatively gathered that one of the recommendations of the Abuja parley was for dissolution of the Umahi-led executive committee, but that the national headquarters was yet

to implement recommendation as it is said to be awaiting President Goodluck Jonathan's assent.

Things had fallen apart with the state chapter of the PDP when former political office holders under Dr. Sam Egwu gathered in Egwu's country home late last year for "mind rubbing" which Governor Martin Elechi's loyalists interpreted as a gathering of opposition in the state and, since then, took a defensive position against the perceived enemies.

Factional chairman of PDP in the state, Chief Adol Awam, had at different reconciliatory fora of the party made representations for the dissolution of the Umahi-led executive committee and recognition of his own faction, stating that Umahi's committee, in the first place, was ill-constituted without a proper congress in 2007 when Umahi allegedly transmuted from caretaker to bonafide executive committee chairman.