

NEWS



BRIEFING: From left: Mr. Richard Mofe-Damijo, Delta State Commissioner for Culture and Tourism; Ufuoma Ejenobor, Gloria Young and Nobert Young, during a briefing by the Commissioner at the unveiling of finalists of Delta Talent Quest in Acting, in Asaba yesterday. Photo Nath Onojake.

Rampage in Asaba as tippers crush 2 *okadamen*, woman

BY AUSTIN OGWUDA

ASABA—AT least four persons were killed in Asaba, Delta State, yesterday by tipper lorries, thereby sparking off protests by commercial motor cycle riders, popularly known as *Okada* men, who lost two of their members in two separate ghastly accidents in the town to tipper lorries same day.

The protest at one of the accident scenes near Government House, Asaba, almost turned violent but for the quick intervention of the police men and soldiers, who prevented the rioting *Okada* men from burning down a tipper lorry that killed one of their members and a female passenger.

Eye witness told our reporter that the female passenger had parked her car for servicing at a mechanic workshop along the road adjacent to Government House and was about picking a bike to her next desti-

nation when a tipper lorry veered off the road and dragged both the *Okada* rider and the woman to about 50 metres. The driver of the tipper with registration number Anambra XE 572 AWK was almost lynched but for the heavy

police presence.

The *Okada* man died instantly while the woman's skull was broken and she was rushed to the hospital and there were conflicting report that the woman's condition was critical and some said she died.

UPU alleges plans to rig elections

THE Urhobo Progress Union, UPU, has raised alarm over plans by some politicians to rig the forthcoming general elections, alleging that officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, in Delta State aided voters registration malpractices. The body has threatened that if INEC refuses to address issues raised to this effect, it will seek redress in a court of law.

According to Chief Young Abenabe, UPU Public Relations Officer, who ad-

dressed newsmen in Agbarho, Delta State, INEC officials aided double registration and had refused to put the list of registered voters in the computer software to avoid being detected. He also said they deliberately registered foreigners to help swell the voting strength of a particular local government area and riverine communities.

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