

NEWS



SWEARING IN: Mr. Niran Sule-Akinyi, Mr. Bekekhimi Idhiarhi and Dr. Baderinwa Omoloja, taking Oath of Office before Governor Olusegun Mimiko of Ondo State, during the swearing-in of the commissioners in Akure.

Falana wants judge to hands off client's trial, alleges bias

BY ABDULWAHAB ABDULAH

LAGOS—FORMER President of West Africa Bar Association, WABA, Mr. Femi Falana, has requested a Lagos State High Court Judge, Justice E.A. Adebajo, to disqualify himself from presiding over a criminal trial involving one of his clients on ground of alleged bias.

In a Motion on Notice

filed by Falana, he asked the judge, who is presiding over the case filed against his client, Sunday Akinyemi, by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, to hands off the case. Akinyemi was accused of stealing funds belonging to Gulf Coast Marine Nigeria Limited, a company owned by him (Akinyemi).

The action, brought pursuant to Section 36 of the

1999 Constitution, prayed the court for an order asking "Justice E.A. Adebajo to disqualify himself from further hearing this matter in any manner whatsoever and howsoever on the grounds of actual bias."

The Motion on Notice was supported by 43 paragraph affidavit deposed to by Falana, who accused the judge of bias, in his dealings and utterances over the matter.

I killed, another injured as car plunges into lagoon

BY KENNETH EHIGIATOR

LAGOS—ONE person was killed and another fatally injured in an auto crash on the Third Mainland Bridge, yesterday.

The accident, which hap-

pened about 11 a.m, also left one of the vehicles, a Honda Acura Legend saloon car, damaged beyond repair.

The car was heading towards Oworonsoki end of the bridge when the acci-

dent occurred.

Eyewitness account said the driver of the Honda, who was reportedly on top speed, lost control of the car which somersaulted severally before slamming into the railing on the bridge.

The driver was said to have plunged into the lagoon, while his female companion died instantly.

It was learnt that the car, fell on the dead passenger, whose body took quite some time to retrieve.

However, another account said the car somersaulted severally after colliding with a LAWMA truck. Both were said to be heading in the same direction.

One of the front tyres of the LAWMA truck obviously pulled off as a result of impact of the collision, even as the front of the vehicle was also damaged.

According to account, the driver of the car, who was flung into the lagoon, was rescued by some good Nigerians, who rushed him to the hospital for treatment, even before the arrival of the state rescue team.

Nigeria still viable for business

— Adeola

BY DOTUN IBIWOYE

LAGOS—VICE-PRESIDENTIAL candidate of Action Congress of Nigeria, ACN, in the last election, Mr. Fola Adeola, has said the nation was still a viable place for investors, despite lack of basic social amenities.

Adeola said this at Fate Foundation's annual celebration and entrepreneurial awards at MUSON Centre in Lagos.

He said several people were making profits and thriving in their businesses in the country, even with the decline in electric power supply.

He stressed it will be wrong for youths to say they could not make an impact in their environment because of the harsh economic situa-

tion and lack of infrastructure, adding that a lot of determined people were improving their lives.

Adeola said: "Everyone has to start from somewhere. No successful person can boast of having everything that he wants in life. A lot of people are making it in this country. It will be laziness and lack of focus for someone to say he or she cannot be an entrepreneur because social amenities are not available."

"When you look round you, you will see several successful entrepreneurs, who are making a positive impact in the society. This place is a viable place where people have made their lives better despite the lack of good roads, regular power supply, potable drinking water and other infrastructures," he added.