

Driver kills six-yr-old girl in accident, escapes mob attack

●CLO condemns action, says it'll ensure justice

BY TONY EDIKE

ENUGU—DRIVER of a popular transport company narrowly escaped mob action in Enugu after crushing a six-year-old girl, Safiya Sanusi, to death while overtaking on the wrong side of the road. He is, however, in police detention, which rescued him from the mob. The deceased and five of her school mates were on their way home from school when the accident occurred.

Eyewitnesses account said the bus was heading for Abakaliki from Enugu when it overtook vehicles on the right hand side and in the process overran the pupils who were walking on the un-tarred part of the road, killing little Safiya instantly.

Vanguard gathered that the driver of the vehicle escaped from the irate mob that was angered by the dangerous driving which resulted in the accident. The crowd was reported to have broken the windscreen of the vehicle, which was later recovered by the police and taken to Emene Police Station.

The driver was also taken into custody by the police, while the corpse of Safiya was deposited in Annunciation Hospital mortuary. Father of the deceased said the late Safiya was a pupil of Emene Practising School, near St. Joseph Catholic Church, Emene.

Meanwhile, human rights group, Civil Liberties Organisation, CLO, has intervened in the matter to ensure that justice was done. South East Director of the group, Mr. Olu Omotayo, wondered why a driver should overtake on the wrong side of the road without regards for pedestrians.

"It should be noted that the recklessness exhibited by drivers of the popular transport company has over

the years resulted in death of hundreds," he said. Omotayo said law enforcement agencies had a lot to do in this regard, especially the Federal Road Safety Corps.

"We cannot continue to close our eyes to recklessness on the roads, exhibited by drivers of a particular company who feel that they are above the law."

"We also call on well meaning Nigerians to also

demand for justice, punitive and adequate compensation against the company (to be given to Mallam Sanusi and his family) to serve as deterrence to the company so that it can check its reckless drivers," he added.

Although the company has offered N100,000 compensation to the deceased's family and a promise to foot the bill of the little girl's burial, the father, however, rejected the offer.

Anambra south senatorial rerun: APGA calls for PDP's disqualification

BY TONY EDIKE

ENUGU—THE All Progressives Grand Alliance, APGA, yesterday, asked the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, to disqualify Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, from contesting Anambra South Senatorial re-run election slated for March 17, 2013, for fielding two candidates for the same elective position.

Two candidates of the PDP, Senator Andy Uba and Nicholas Ukachukwu are currently campaigning for the repeat election ordered by the Court of Appeal, which had earlier nullified the election of Uba while ruling on the petition filed by APGA senatorial candidate, Chuma

Nzeribe.

The two PDP candidates are claiming that they were rightly nominated by the party for the election and while Uba was nominated by the Udeozo-led state

executive of the party, Ukachukwu claimed the National Executive Committee okayed his nomination and should be regarded as the authentic candidate.

....Says we 're ready to integrate Okorie

ABUJA—ALL Progressives Grand Alliance, APGA, yesterday expressed its readiness to properly integrate Mr Chekwes Okorie, former national chairman of the party.

Okorie had earlier returned the original certificate of registration of the party to INEC, complying with the

Supreme Court ruling which recognised Chief Victor Umeh as the substantive national chairman of the party.

Chief Ifeanacho Oguejofor, the party's National Director of Publicity, said the party would continue to work and integrate Okorie if he was ready to work with APGA.