

Auto crash claims 8 lives in Enugu

BY TONY EDIKE

ENUGU—NO fewer than eight persons have lost their lives in an auto crash that occurred along the Enugu-Nsukka single-carriage way. Three of the eight victims in the accident which took place weekend, were burnt beyond recognition.

The State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Ebere Amaraizu, who confirmed the accident in a statement yesterday, said the vehicles involved a DAF trailer with registration number XE460AWK and a Ford Bus with registration number X A 4 3 5 K C . The vehicles caught fire and burnt the passengers in the bus.

He said the bodies of the deceased had been deposited at Our Saviour Hospital Mortuary at 9th Mile awaiting autopsy and collection by their relations. The PPRO said efforts were on to track down the fleeing driver of the said DAF trailer.

In another development, the State Police Command said it had commenced full investigations to determine

the extent of involvement of one Ifeanyi Ani of Akpugo in Nkanu West local Government Area of the state in a case of robbery.

The suspect and three other persons now at large were allegedly trying to rob their unsuspecting victims of their valuables at about

12 noon on July 13, 2012 at 9th Mile axis before security operatives from 9th Mile Police Division swooped on them. Amaraizu said three of the suspects escaped with two motorcycles while one was apprehended.

According to the police

spokesman, a Barreta pistol without ammunition was recovered from the suspect, whom he said, "revealed that he belonged to the gang that robbed one Malachy Eze and other traders at 9th Mile on July 10, 2012 along Enugu road 9th Mile."

Abia taskforce impounds 33,000 litres of unrefined petroleum products

BY ANAYO OKOLI

UMUAHIA—THE Abia State Petroleum Monitoring Taskforce has impounded a truck loaded with 33,000 litres of substance suspected to be unrefined petroleum products at the premises of a private company in Ossa area of Umuahia.

According to the State Commissioner for Petroleum, Chief Don Ubani, the arrest of the truck was sequel to a petition by the Ossah Community alleging that the company had been operating illegal refinery.

On the strength of the petition, Ubani said he directed the taskforce chairman,

Mr. Tony Anyanwu to investigate the case, "which he did and brought back a report that the suspected truck and the substance are at the said premises with a sample to attest to that effect".

He said the truck marked, Abia XB 855 NGK which had been under surveillance for some days before the information that the truck was parked somewhere around Ossah Community.

Ubani said the company had been deceiving the public by claiming to be in a different business while inside the premises it had "been running an illegal re-

finery contrary to the state government laws".

"There is no doubt that the contents in the truck is crude oil, but we are going to run a test on it to prove them wrong and once that is done we will move to the next step, which is invoking the laws of the state on the company and its owners.

Reacting, a staff of the company, Mr. Jonathan Anyanwu denied being involved in running any illegal refinery. According to him, the company was only engaged in vegetable oil, "where we crush palm kernel to extract vegetable oil which we sell".