

News

Tanker fire: 2 killed, 3 injured in Ebonyi

BY PETER OKUTU

ABAKALIKI—NO fewer than two persons, weekend, lost their lives after a petrol tanker with registration number, Cross River XA 574 Calabar, fell at Ntezi-Amuzu community, along Abakaliki-Afikpo expressway in Ebonyi State.

Three other persons who sustained injuries in the ensuing inferno are now receiving treatment at the Federal Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki.

Vanguard learnt that the tanker, which fell on Saturday at about 3:55pm, discharged all the products it was carrying into some compounds belonging to members of Ntezi-Amuzu community which sparked off fire that led to death of two persons and destruction of buildings and lockup shops worth million of naira.

When our correspondent visited the scene, it

was gathered that the truck fell because of a bad spot along the expressway which was not properly marked with a road sign to enable commuters take alternative routes.

An eye-witness account revealed that since the incident occurred, the Federal Road Safety Commission, FRSC, in the state is yet to arrive the scene.

Cleric faults constitution review, slams NASS

BY CHINENYEHOZOR

NSUKKA—THE Anglican Bishop of Enugu Diocese, Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Chukwuma, has said that members of the National Assembly were not interested in the agenda of the masses but rather their personal interests.

Bishop Chukwuma stated this in an interview at St Paul's Cathedral, Nsukka, during the consecration of the bishop of Isuikwuato/Umunneochi, Abia State,

Aside from the two persons that lost their lives following the incident, three others were admitted at the Federal Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki, FETHA where they are currently receiving treatment.

A member of the community, Mr. Chidi Nwele, said: "It started about 3:55pm on Saturday. When the tanker was just passing, along the line, it fell on the

road and led to outbreak of fire. It destroyed two motorcycles, buildings and wounded three persons who are now receiving treatment in the Federal Teaching Hospital Abakaliki.

"Two persons by name, Mrs. Margret Nworie and Mr. Felix of Ntezi-Amuzu community lost their lives because of the incident."

Rt. Rev. Manasse Okere.

He said the National Assembly only ushered an agenda as constitutional amendment only to confirm the areas of their personal interests for elongation of tenure.

He said: "The National Assembly left all the agenda that affect the people and gave out areas that suite their personal interests at the expense of the masses."

"They should face the challenges of the entire country which bother on insecurity, poverty, vio-

lence, crime and unemployment among others."

Nigeria's GDP grows 6.5% in 3rd quarter

LAGOS (REUTERS)—NIGERIA, Africa's second-biggest economy, grew 6.5 per cent in the third quarter from a year earlier, helped by solid growth in the non-oil economy, data showed, yesterday.

GDP growth accelerated slightly from 6.3 per cent in the second quarter of this year, figures from the National Bureau of Statistics, NBS,

FG terminates Lagos-Ibadan expressway contract

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terminated.

"For your information, under this concession the construction period is supposed to last for four years and the four years will come to a close in about six months time and right now there is nothing on ground to suggest that the company is capable."

He, however, assured that the non-performance of Bi-Courtney would not affect the Federal Government's patronage of local contractors.

showed. Oil output in Africa's biggest producer climbed nearly 6 per cent from the corresponding period a year ago.

Nigeria's economy has been slowing this year due to a slowdown in developed economies that buy Nigerian oil and to the impact of an Islamist insurgency in the north of the country. The government forecasts 6.5

He said: "I would not want to say that it was a mistake, because though I was not in the office at that time, perhaps at that time they had the most responsible bids, the details is best known to the then Minister of Works and his team that handled the project."

"But again, it is not out of place to give Nigerian companies opportunities to handle projects of this nature. This is our country, who ever has the ability and the capacity to do projects of this nature, we believe should be encouraged."

per cent economic growth this year, down from 7.4 per cent last year.

The NBS said the non-oil sector was "still the major driver of the economy," recording 7.6 per cent growth in the third quarter and supported by growth in building and construction, cement, hotel, restaurant and electricity sectors.