

The deputy speaker of the House, Rt. Hon. Cosmos

(right), during the wedding of his former aide, Victor Nwokeke (left) and his wife, Somto, at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, Isikwuoto, Abia State, yesterday.

Female teacher dies with four children on Christmas day

By Emeka Mamah

ABAKALIKI—THE people of Ozizza in Afikpo area of Ebonyi State are still in a state of shock following the "mysterious death" of a teacher and her four children during Christmas. The oldest child was aged six while the last was six months old.

The woman whose name was given as Mrs Faith Ejim- Egwu, was said to have been recently posted to the Unity Secondary School in the area. She was said to be boiling something on the Christmas eve at about 7.30 pm when she took out her last child to bathe her while the other three children were already asleep.

But at a point, she was said to have noticed that the fire on the stove was low and went inside the kitchen of her two-room apartment with the child she was bathing to ascertain the problem.

According to police sources, it was in the process of ascertaining the problem that the stove exploded and fire engulfed the whole kitchen.

It was also gathered that the woman tried to open the kitchen and escape with her child but the door could not open as the jam lock had stiffened.

Outsiders who noticed the inferno could also not open the kitchen as the fire spread to the whole house and burnt the three children who were sleeping in their room beyond recognition.

When the kitchen door was eventually forced open, both the mother of the children and the little child had become unconscious but the sympathisers took her to a nearby hospital which was unable to treat them

MASSOB cries out over mass killing, intimidation of Biafran activists

By Ugochukwu Alaribe

ABA—MOVEMENT for the Actualization of Sovereign States of Biafra, MASSOB, has urged the United States President elect, Mr. Donald Trump to save the people of Biafra from what it described as infliction of wicked policies, intimidation and mass killings of Biafran activists by the President Muhammadu Buhari-led administration in Nigeria.

The group alleged that more Biafrans had been killed for demanding for their rights under Buhari than previous administration in the country, and appealed to the US President-elect to help Biafra gain independence from Nigeria as soon as he is sworn in to office on January 20.

Addressing 30 newly appointed zonal coordinators in Aba, MASSOB Leader for Abia South Zone, Okporie Nkama, who urged the Biafran people not to be discouraged by the suffering which they have been subjected to in Nigeria, said the actualization of Biafra's independence is only a

matter of time. They were rushed to a second hospital where she managed to say few words before dying on the Christmas day. Her six month-old child died three hours after her mother even as her husband who rushed home from his own location

collapsed on arrival but was later revived.

A neighbour, who gave his name as Emma Anyim confirmed the story and attributed "the strange deaths" to spiritual attack.

He commended the international community and corporate organizations for their firm support for the actualization of Biafra independence, assuring that; "Biafrans are being killed and detained without cause by the Nigerian government. Biafrans have become an endangered specie in Nigeria. Now, you have

been commissioned with a sacred assignment to ensure that the people are free from slavery, intimidation, mass killings and wicked policies against Biafrans by the Nigerian government. You must rise to the occasion. Remember our non-violence strategy; we will certainly gain independence through non violence."

Odogwu's entrepreneurial spirit unsurpassed

FOREMOST business magnate and elder statesman, Chief Sunny Odogwu, has been given the Lifetime Award of outstanding personality of the decade by the Aniomia Professionals Forum.

The association's President, Barr. Ikem Nkenchor, at the award presentation in Lagos, said Chief Odogwu got the plaudits on the account of his remarkable achievements in the areas of industrialisation, philanthropy and patriotism.

He added that since the Ide Ahaba of Asaba delved into business, covering insurance, real estate, hospitality, manufacturing and human capital

sectors, over 50 years ago, he has become an industrialist of note in the country and even beyond.

According to Nkenchor, "Let it be stated clearly that Chief Odogwu is a man of integrity and honour, who, in his 50 years of business, has carved a niche for himself as a trustworthy and responsible businessman with businesses in Asia, Europe, Africa, America and assets abroad valued at over one billion U.S dollars.

"More importantly, his business dealings are guarded by best ethical practices."

Moreover, Odogwu is building a five-star hotel in his home town Asaba, Delta State, valued at about 160 million U.S dollars