

2 die in car accident along Calabar-Itu Highway

....As Sen Eyakenyi's aide clarifies incident

By Chioma Onuegbu

A couple, from Akwa Ibom State, reportedly died when a Sport Utility Vehicle, SUV, belonging to the senator representing Eket Senatorial District, Senator Akon Eyakenyi, ran into their motorcycle.

It was gathered that the accident occurred along Calabar-Itu highway, on Saturday.

Some officials of the Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC, called to manage traffic at the scene were reportedly injured and one of their patrol vehicles was damaged by some angry youths around the area where the accident occurred.

It was gathered that if not for the timely intervention of security agencies, the youths would have even torched some vehicles in the Senator's convoy.

However, it was gathered, yesterday, that calm has been restored to the area after fruitful negotiation and an appeal to the youths to embrace peace.

Reacting, Samuel Duncan, the Media Aide of Senator Eyakenyi, explained that a hit-and-run driver of a Toyota Sienna car had run into a motorbike conveying a lady at an intersection, throwing both the rider and passenger into the right of way of the vehicle conveying the senator.

Duncan in the statement titled: "Senator Akon Eyakenyi is Safe", said the Senator who is also the deputy gubernatorial candidate of the People's Democratic Party, (PDP) was on her way to represent the party's Gubernatorial Candidate, Pastor. Umo Eno, at an event in Uruan Local Government Area, when the accident occurred.

His words: "The unprovoked attack on the Senator's vehicle as shown in some section of the media, was only perpetuated by people who sought to make political capital of the unfortunate situation as eyewitnesses battled in vain to absolve the convoy of any wrongdoing in the incidence, even as Senator Eyakenyi stood by to rein-in her security aides from getting confrontational with the needlessly irate mob.

"Our office has reported the incident to the Police, hoping the hit and run driver is identified, while restating commitment to helping the Police establish closure on the matter.

"We hereby commiserate with the families of victims of yesterday's unfortunate occurrence and frown at every attempt at politicizing the avoidable spill"

The Police Public Relations Officer, Mr Odiko MacDon, could not be reached for comment on the unfortunate incident as his GSM line was reading not available at the time of filing this report.