

## EFCC arraigns former Gombe revenue board chair over N25.6m scam

From Haruna Gimba Yaya, Gombe

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) yesterday arraigned the former chairman of the Gombe State Board of Internal Revenue and three others over alleged N25.6m fraud.

The former chairman Atiku Mu'azu Bayum, chief store officer Mohammed

Adi, chief accountant Ibrahim Abubakar and a director Abubakar Usman were arraigned before a Federal High Court in Gombe on a 30-count charge bordering on forgery, and obtaining money by false pretence.

According to the court documents, the defendants were alleged to have used their positions to conspire, forge documents and obtain

the sum of N25, 060, 000 belonging to the Gombe State Government.

The court was told that investigation by the Gombe zonal office of the EFCC revealed that the documents forged include several receipt attached to payment vouchers for which payments were released and converted to their personal used in the cause of their duties.

However, all the defendants pleaded not guilty to all the charge preferred against them. In view of their plea, the prosecution counsel Barrister Israel Akande applied for a date of trial.

The presiding judge, Justice Mohammed Garba Umar granted the defendants bail in the sum of N2m each and two sureties in like sum for each. He adjourned the case to October 11 for hearing.



■ Some world class investors during their meeting with Vice President Prof. Yemi Osinbajo at the Presidential Villa in Abuja yesterday.

Photo: NAN

## Man commits suicide as lightning kills student in Anambra

From Jude Aguguo Owuamanam, Awka

A 40-year-old man identified as Nnamdi Omezi committed suicide yesterday in Obosi, Idemili North Local Government Area of Anambra State.

He was said to have hung himself around 4pm from a ceiling fan in his apartment located on Fred Ezika Street, Odume layout.

His body was still dangling from where it was suspended when the police led by the DPO Isiwulu Division arrived at the scene.

The reason behind the act was still uncertain as at the time of filing this report.

A 100-level student of Anambra State University, Igbariam also died yesterday following a thunder lightning during a heavy downpour in the area.

Vincent Uche Mbanefo, a student of Agriculture Extension was said to be in his lodge at Achalla around 5pm when the incident happened.

Police Public Relations Officer Anambra State Police Command, Haruna Mohammed confirmed both

incidents.

He said the police attached to Isiwulu Division visited the scene of the suicide incident with a medical doctor, who certified the victim dead.

He however said efforts to recover the corpse for autopsy proved abortive, as the community insisted on ritual rites to be conducted as a traditional requirement before moving the corpse.

Mohammed added that the body of the student had been taken to his Aguleri home for burial.

## Oyo govt promises to compensate victims of Bodija clashes

From Jeremiah Oke, Ibadan

The Oyo State government has promised to compensate the victims of the Thursday's clash between the men of Nigeria Police force and the Oyo state chapter of Nigeria Butchers Union (NBU).

The government however said the victims could only be compensated if the police concluded investigations and none of the victims was culprit of the clash.

The state Commissioner for Information, Culture and Tourism, Mr. Toye Arulogun who spoke with journalists shortly after inspection of the new Ibadan Central abattoir located at Amosun village yesterday, said government is compiling the list of the affected victims.

He said, "The state government has done it

before, we have done it when some Bodija traders were killed, even, when the incident occurred outside the state, so, the government that can do that. The government will after investigations compensate the victims.

"We need to know the exact number of the people who lost their lives during the incident. "So, after investigations, the government will provide a kind of compensation to the families of the victims," he said.

Secretary of the Nigeria Butchers Union (NBU), in the state, Mr. Lateef Olagoke said that contrary to insinuations, there is still cordial relationship between the butchers and the cattle breeders in the state adding that there will be no increment of prices meat in the state.

## Agency identifies victims of Niger flood

From Ahmed Tahir Ajobe, Minna

All but one victim of the Monday flood disaster in Rafin Gora community and Angwar Nasarawa in Kontagora local government area of Niger State were girls, Alhaji Ibrahim Inga, Director General of the State Emergency Management Agency, has disclosed.

Malam Inga, who shed light on the development to *Daily Trust* yesterday in Minna, said the Rafin Gora incident claimed seven lives, all girls, while one other, Malama Harisa Musa, is still missing as at the time of filing this report.

He said the two victims of the Angwar Nasarawa incident Maryam Salihu and Yahaya Salihu were of the same parent.

Among the victims of the Angwar Gora incident include Hanifa Mansur, Fauziya Danlumu, Nana Bello Dankayi, Hadiza Auwali,

Na'ima Usman, Rashida Sahabi and Khadija Salah.

The Director General said information before the agency indicates that they were between the ages of 16 and 18.

He said a boy survived by clinging on to a tree before rescue eventually came his way.

He said seven bodies were recovered from the Rafi Gora incident and have since been buried according to Islamic rites.

He said in the Angwar Nasarawa, Yahaya Salihu, 8, lost his slippers in the flood and his elder sister, Maryam, who was nearby, tried to recover the slippers but was washed away by the flood.

On noticing the condition of his sister, Yahaya made to go for her rescue and also lost his life.

He said the bodies of the two siblings have since been recovered and interred.

## Uncle sets toddler ablaze for defecating

From Eyo Charles, Calabar

A two-year-old girl, Destiny Kelvin, set ablaze by her uncle for defecating around the house is recuperating but needs financial support to keep on.

The toddler was rescued by an NGO called Child Protection Network (CPN) and handed over to the Basic Rights Counsel Initiative (BRCI).

The outcry by the NGO led to the arrest of the uncle, Leo Ewa, in Akamkpa local government area of the state, who is presently detained at the state police command.

According to eye witnesses, the toddler was tied to a guava tree and set on fire by her the man said to be her father's brother.

The program manager of BRCI, Kebe Ikpi, said that the baby has recovered from the high degree burnt which made her unable to either stand or sit, but needs public spirited people and government to come to her aid.

The Police PRO in the state, Ms Irene Ugbo, confirmed the story, saying the father and the mother have been arrested and investigation on the matter was ongoing.

## Amaechi, Wike bicker over completed projects in Rivers

From Victor Edozie, Port Harcourt

The Minister of Transportation, Chibuike Amaechi and Rivers State Governor Nyesom Wike are bickering over who completed some key projects in the state.

The minister had at a reception organised for him at Elele in Ikwerre Local Government Area at the weekend accused Governor Wike of commissioning projects he initiated and completed during his administration.

One of the projects which Amaechi said he completed but was commissioned by Wike is the Slaughter/Woji flyover.

Governor Wike in his reaction said Amaechi is lying about projects delivered by his administration to improve the living condition of the people.

"There are several projects which were initiated, constructed and commissioned by my administration. Amaechi didn't have meaningful projects; that is why he had no projects to commission. We have meaningful projects and we will continue to commission them.

"Projects like Sakpenwa-Bori Road, National Industrial Court, Port Harcourt Pleasure Park, Rivers State Ecumenical Centre, Federal High Court Complex, Court of Appeal, Igwuruta-Chokocho, College of Medical Sciences building, Elemenwo-Akpajo, Traditional Rulers Secretariat, Rumuokoro Market and Park, Bonny-Bille-Nembe Jetty, Government Secondary School, Onne, Government Girls Secondary School, Rumuokwuta and several others were the brainchild of this administration."