

## 5 feared dead as *Molue* runs into commuters

**LEONARD OKACHIE**

**N**O fewer than five persons were feared dead in Lagos, yesterday, when a commercial bus, popularly called *Molue*, lost control and rammed into commuters at a bus stop.

The incident, which took place at about 1pm at the Agbe Farms Bus Stop on Agege Motor Road, had many passengers in the bus and other people at the bus stop sustaining varying degrees of

injuries.

*Saturday Champion* gathered that the bus, with registration number XC 869GCE, was fully load with passengers and was going from Oshodi to Iyana Ipaja. It was on high speed but lost control while trying to avoid hitting a commercial motorcycle, popularly called *Okada*, which was in between it and a Honda car.

"The *Molue* was on a high speed as well as a Honda car.

While it was trying to avoid an *Okada*, which was in between it and the Honda, it eventually lost control, hit the Honda and ran into passengers at the bus stop," an eye witness, who identified himself as Mr. Sunny Zacheaus, told *Saturday Champion*.

Mr. Zacheaus, who said he was in the rescue mission explained that about 20 people were rescued instantly.

A commercial motorcyclist, who gave his name as Monday Oghediri said a female passenger he was carrying died on the spot.

Oghediri stated that he narrowly escaped death because he was able to jump out before the bus reached them.

Officers of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) and the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) were at the scene to rescue the situation as the accident caused traffic jam that spanned for several hours.

Also at the scene were workers and vehicles of the Lagos State Ambulance Service as well as some private towing vans taking away the dead and the injured including the damaged vehicle.

When *Saturday Champion* visited the Lagos State University Hospital (LASUTH), Ikeja, where the victims were taken to, source from the office of the Chief Medical Director, said that 45 persons were brought to the hospital, out of which 15 were transferred to other hospitals.

The source stressed that the casualties who sustained minor injuries were in stable condition and would soon be discharged as at press time.

## Ohakim launches New Face of Imo Organisation

**EMMA OGU, Owerri**

**A**NOTHER political chapter has opened in the life of the Eastern Heartland with the launching, yesterday, of Governor Ikedi Ohakim's New Face Organization, an all embracing socio-political structure, which pulled political leaders of the state under one umbrella.

The organization is said to be machinery with which he wants to actualize his vision of transforming Imo into a model modern state.

The political initiative was seemingly conceived to bury former Gov Achike Udenwa's Redemption Organization and Senator Ifeanyi Araraume's Destiny Organization, both of which were disbanded by the government and elders' council.

Many of Udenwa and Araraume's supporters and loyalists have found themselves in the new arrangement.

Nevertheless, the New Face Organization is seen in some circles as political machinery of the incumbent governor to prosecute his political agenda in 2011. Though, the organization has its members drawn from different political parties, it was dominated by Peoples Democratic Party members in the state.

The launching of the association is further seen as a prelude for Ohakim's defection

the BOT members as well as the local government directors of the organization at the Dan Anyiam stadium, Ohakim described the organization as a grass root mass movement designed to build bridges for good governance in the state, adding that with the coming of the organization, the people have decided to take their destiny into their own hands.

He urged them to bury the hatchet and put the past behind them so as to chart a collective future. Ohakim also pledged to do everything within his power to protect the interest of the people of the state.

"New Face Organization is not just about the political life of Ohakim, but all of us. It is a story of a people's determination to shake off the yoke of exploitation. With NFO, we must redeem ourselves from poverty. We must redeem ourselves from political contractors and politics of rigmarole. As members of this mass movement, you have become fathers of change," the governor said.

In his speech on the occasion, Chief Iwuanyanwu also expressed happiness on the composition of the organization, pointing out that it was a gathering of men of opposing ideological camps. He therefore, assured that his team will work hard for stability of the state.