

**A**T least 10 people including a two-year-old baby, perished in an auto crash involving a refuse truck and a Mitsubishi bus at Iyana Isolo on Apapa – Oshodi expressway yesterday.

According to an eye-witness, the accident happened while

## 10 perish in auto accident in Lagos

By **EBERE NDUKWU**

the bus that was coming from Oshodi and truck heading to Oshodi were trying to avoid a pot hole.

If it was the real cause of the accident, it was not ascertained.

Actually there was a pot hole before the scene of the accident, but it was not ascertained, if the pothole was the real cause of the accident.

Another eye-witness alleged that the driver of the waste truck was playing a Video CD while driving. He told the newsmen that he was among the few people who rushed to the scene to put off the video CD.

But it was not certain where the Mitsubishi bus was coming from and its destination. However, reports from the Lagos Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) stated that the Mitsubishi bus was conveying members of a church from Obalande. It also confirmed the death of 10 passengers and added that five of them were still under intensive care at Ikeja General Hospital.

Paul Azuka, a staff of Afprint,

a company that had part of its wall destroyed as a result of the accident, said it happened at about 12 noon and some rescue team came about 35 minutes after the incident to assist the people involved but could not because their Crane was unable to lift up the waste bin truck that was lying on top of the Mitsubishi bus.

A renewed effort was then made by some policemen around to bring a stronger

Crane. While, this was going on, one of the passengers who was trapped in the Mitsubishi bus under the truck cried for help, while many of them were already dead.

He said three hours after the incident, a Julius Berger company Crane of 80 tons, came and lifted the truck to enable passengers who were trapped inside the Mitsubishi bus to be rescued.

According to him, only three persons, a man and two women, survived the accident and were rushed to Ikeja General hospital by an ambulance.

One of the police women at the scene, who couldn't give her name but said that she from Area D police Command, Mushin, said that she met nine of the passengers including a baby already dead at the time she arrived.

The accident obstructed the flow of traffic along the service lane before Iyana Isolo bus stop as sympathisers, police and rescue team crowded the road.

Meanwhile, policemen from Aswani Police Station who were on investigation, reported that they have recovered some identity cards to help individuals to identify the bodies of their relatives.

According to them, efforts were being made to recover more identity cards.

## Leaders pay tribute

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### ... A great Nigerian brand —Akunyili

**P**ROF. Dora Akunyili, minister of Information and Communications, yesterday in Lagos described late legal luminary and activist, Gani Fawehinmi as a great Nigerian brand.

Akunyili, who led a Federal Government delegation to condole with the Fawehinmis over the death of their patriarch, Gani, early yesterday.

She said Fawehinmi was an activist who fought for the oppressed.

Akunyili said Fawehinmi's numerous battles led to many positive developments in Nigeria, including the opening up of the political space with the registration of many political parties.

"Chief Fawehinmi was an internationally renowned lawyer. He raised the bar of the legal profession with his weekly law reports," Akunyili added.

She said President Umaru Yar'Adua was shocked at the exit of the "Senior Advocate of Nigeria and the Masses".

### ...A fearless advocate – David Mark

COSMAS EKPUNOBI, Abuja

**S**ENATE President Senator David Mark has expressed shock over the sudden death of Chief Gani Fawehinmi, describing the death of the legal icon as a colossal loss to the legal profession, human right crusade

luminary, government and good people of the Ondo State and the Federal Government, to take solace in the fact that, late Gani consistent footprint would remain forever in the history of democratic struggle in the nation.

Late Chief Gani Fawehinmi is one Nigerian who lived his



•Sympathisers and security agents gather as 10 corpses of the victims lay on the road.

Photo: Chinyere Ikeanyi