

# 28 Mopol, 3 others die in Benue auto crash

**T**wenty eight mobile policemen yesterday, died in a motor accident along Gboko - Aliade road in Benue State. They were on their way to Port Harcourt from Jalingo, Taraba State on special duty, Benue command commi-

**From Hir Joseph, Makurdi**

ssioner, Mr. Udom Ekpoudom said.

Three civilians also died in the accident which occurred as a result of a head on collision involving two big vehicles in the early hours of

yesterday.

Two passengers survived the accident but eye witness account had it that their condition is critical. They were rescued and taken to the General Hospital Aliade, for treatment.

The eye witness said a

1414 Mercedes bus belonging to the Taraba State Transport Service conveying the mobile police officers and a 911 Mercedes lorry conveying iced fish to Gboko had a head on collision at a place called Achoho, along the Gboko/ Aliade road. The accident

occurred at about 4am yesterday.

Benue State Police Commissioner, Udom Ekpoudom who visited both the scene of the incident and the hospital where the surviving two are receiving

*Cont. on Pg. 4*

## *Cont. from pg. 1* **28 Mopol, 3 others die in Benue auto crash**

treatment, described the incident as a painful tragedy to the force and the nation. He prayed for the repose of the souls of the departed.

One Sunday Ugoh, a resident of the area told reporters that 27 police officers died on the spot, together with the three occupants of the lorry, bringing the death toll to 30 persons.

He alleged that those who stopped for the rescue operation complained of the recklessness of the bus driver. The bus was believed

to have dodged a pot hole following which he missed control and collided with the on coming lorry.

At the Aliade General Hospital where the commissioner also visited, medical officer, Dr. Samuel Anakaa, gave the names of the two police survivors as Corporal John Odeh and Constable Ibrahim Muktar. He said they are responding to treatment. Odeh said they left Jalingo at 5pm the previous day bound for Port Harcourt.

The police boss passed the assurance of the Acting

Inspector General, Mike Okiro that the families of the affected police officers would be compensated since they died in active service.

Force headquarters confirmed the story yesterday describing it as tragic.

Police spokesman, Haz Iwendi, told *Daily Trust* the accident happened at about 4 am when the policemen's vehicle ran into a lorry. He said they were travelling from Taraba to Bayelsa for an assignment.