

# Three children, four adults die in Benue/Nasarawa auto crash

**S**even people died in a motor accident involving a mini bus and a fast speeding trailer between Benue and Nasarawa state yesterday. Three of the dead were children and four adult passengers.

Benue state deputy governor, Chief Steven Lawani was at the scene of the accident while on his way to Abuja. He stopped and directed his police escorts to assist in evacuating the corpses and those who survived, to the Makurdi Federal Medical Centre (FMC), his media aide, Mr. Onah Iduh said.

Onah Iduh told Daily Trust that the accident occurred at Yelwata, a Nasarawa state settlement bordering Benue state along the Makurdi-Lafia federal highway.

The accident occurred when a fast speeding trailer heading towards Lafia from Makurdi pushed off the mini bus which was coming from the opposite direction, Benue state police au-

**From Hir Joseph, Makurdi**

thorities said.

The 18-seater mini bus belonging to Nyanya Mass Transit transport company, skidded off the road as the driver attempted to dodge the fast speeding trailer, and plunged into some waterlogged swamp where it submerged.

The "A" Divisional Police Officer under the Benue command, Hassan Usman (ASP) refused to confirm the number of deaths recorded, however this reporter sighted two corpses of two little children which were laid in front of their surviving mothers at FMC.

Hassan Usman who led the rescue team said only the two corpses were successfully retrieved, while other bodies were still trapped inside the submerged vehicle.

The surviving victims, according to eye witness account, had to be assisted to force themselves out of the vehicle, as well as swim out of the waterlog.