

Woman, four children, 21 others die in Rivers road mishap

*From Kelvin Ebiri,
Port Harcourt*

TWENTY-SIX persons, among them women and children, have died in a ghastly ~~automobile~~ accident that occurred along the Elele-Isiokpo in Elele Road in Rivers State.

The accident, which occurred on Saturday night near the St. Aquinas High School, Elele in Ikwerre Local Council of the state, was said to have been caused by a head on collision between a red sport utility vehicle (SUV) and a commercial bus belonging to Imo State Transport Company (ITC).

The Guardian learnt that the red jeep, which was traveling from Port Harcourt to an unknown destination, rammed into the commercial bus from Yenagoa to Port Harcourt while attempting to avoid a pothole on the road.

A witness, who identified himself as Mr. Reuben, said that the two vehicles were on high speed when they collided. He said they both somersaulted several times before landing in the bush.

Scores of vehicles on the road reportedly

Continued on Page 4

26 persons die in Rivers auto crash

Continued from Page 1

stopped to assist in the rescue efforts.

"The impact of the jeep on the bus was devastating. All the occupants of the bus died instantly, including a woman and her four children. I have

never seen such an accident in life. It was really a sad incident," he said.

Reuben, who was among the rescuers, placed the casualty figure at 26. He explained that the bus was so mangled that it was difficult to

bring out anyone alive.

According to him, rescuers were still at the scene of the accident till at 8 p.m. when he left the place. He explained that rescue exercise was hampered by lack of tools to rip the vehicles apart in

order to pull out the victims.

The Rivers State Police Public Relations Officer, Mrs. Ireju Barasua, who confirmed the mishap, said she had not been briefed on the casualty figure.

Fake drugs drop to 16.5 per cent