

# 33 killed in road crash

• 28 mobile  
policemen are  
victims

From Uja Emmanuel,  
Makurdi

**T**HIRTY-THREE people, among them 28 mobile policemen, died early yesterday in a road crash in Benue State.

The accident occurred at Aliade, headquarters of Gwer East Local Government.

The mobile policemen were travelling in a police truck from Jalingo in Taraba State on a special duty to Port Harcourt, Rivers State when the accident occurred on the busy Makurdi-Enugu highway.

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WATERGATE

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An eyewitness account said the accident occurred when the driver of the 911 truck, which was fully loaded with goods, heading towards the North lost control and rammed into the MOPOL truck.

Apart from the 28 policemen who died on the spot, five persons in the 911 truck were killed. In all, 33 died.

At press time, the state Police Commissioner, Prince Edom Ekpodum and some other senior officers of the command had to Aliade to recover the bodies of the policemen.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mr Ibrahim Mohammed, confirmed the incident, describing it as the "worst moment" for the entire force. He called for prayers for the families of those

who died.

Mr. Mohammed also said an additional police truck had been sent to the area to convey the bodies to the mortuary in Makurdi.

The police command headquarters in Makurdi was very quiet. Policemen were seen in groups, discussing the accident.

## 419: Ex-county

**A** FORMER county treasurer was ordered to prison Tuesday for up to 14 years after stealing county funds and losing them in phony Nigerian investments.

Former Alcona County Treasurer Thomas Katona pleaded guilty in May to eight counts of embezzlement, two of forgery and one of attempted embez-