

One man, five deaths

Mr. Igbana Kwazan, the Acting Head of Protocol, Benue State Government House, is a sad man. He lost three of his relations, his wife and driver in an accident - in one fell swoop. But perhaps more intriguing is the fact that the accident occurred on a road that is fast assuming the notoriety of a "killer". Here is the report.

FOR Igbana Kwazan, Acting Director of Protocol in the Benue State Government House, January 22, will remain one of the darkest days of his life. In the evening of that fateful day, he lost his wife, Rebecca Liambee, a nurse, Jonathan Ieren, his elder brother, two of his nephews, Vershima Ieren and Terzungwe Aermberga, and Alhaji, Sabo Yakubu, his driver.

They lost their lives at Tse-Kucha, on Makurdi-Gboko road when their vehicle collided with an on-coming tipper.

The deceased were returning to Makurdi from Tse-Kwazan, Mbatyula ward in the Katsina-Ala Local Government Area, when the accident occurred.

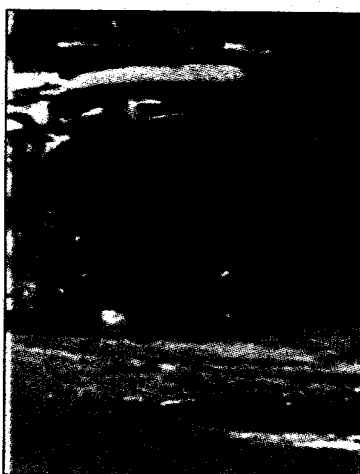
Rebecca, 45, a staff with the General Hospital, North Bank, Makurdi, enjoyed farming, and had a large farm in her husband's village.

When she took her leave at the beginning of the year, she went home to harvest crops, mostly yams, from the farm.

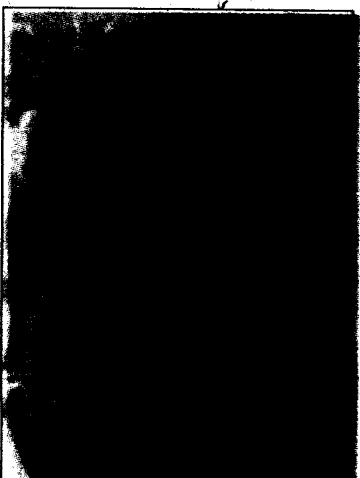
Her husband's nephews, who lived with her in Makurdi and were about completing secondary school, went to help her on the farm.

Towards the end of her leave, her husband's driver, Yakubu went to pick them at the village. Yakubu was accompanied by his boss' elder brother, Jonathan.

Frequent travellers on the Makurdi-Gboko road know Tse-



•The two vehicles after the accident



•The late Ieren

By Our Reporter

Kucha as the home of the Benue Cement Company and the BCC Lion Football Club. But the Kwazan family and others in their shoes would forever remember Tse-Kucha, as the place they lost their loved ones.

Dr. John Atii, a former Commissioner for Agriculture in the state, died in a road accident on the road. In 2005, more than 20 persons were killed in a multiple accident involving a trailer, which ran into traders at a tomato market by the roadside.

Two days before the January 22 accident, two persons died in another accident involving four vehicles at a spot close to the settlement. Over the years, so many accidents have occurred within the range of five kilometres of Tse-Kucha.

An eyewitness, Mr. Aondofa Alaka, said the black Government House Peugeot 504 saloon car, with registration number BNGH 57, had overtaken a Honda car and was overtaking a motorcycle when it veered off its lane and collided with the tipper on the other lane. The tipper was approaching Tse-Kucha from Makurdi.

Mr. Kpelai Shaagee, proprietor of Mamoti Nursery School, which is close to the accident scene, said