

# 17 pro-Ladoja supporters buried amid tears

**T**HE 17 pro-Ladoja supporters involved in an auto crash in Okeho in Kajola Local Government Area of Oyo State at the weekend were yesterday given a mass burial at the Sango Cemetery, Ibadan.

The deceased were burnt to death when the 18-seater bus conveying them to the burial of the father of one of them in Okeho, had an accident.

Hundreds of supporters of ex-Governor Rashidi Ladoja thronged the cemetery to pay their last respect to the departed souls.

The sight of the burnt bodies drew tears from everyone as they were placed on the floor. Some politicians and relatives of the deceased even fainted.

Two of those that slumped

**From Oseheye Okwuofu, Ibadan**

were rushed to a nearby hospital for first aid.

The atmosphere at the Sango cemetery became charged when a blue Toyota Cabster with registration number Lagos KF975KJA, which conveyed the remains of the deceased moved in.

The charred bodies were wrapped in white clothes and conveyed to the grave site for interment that lasted only 10 minutes.

Among the top party chieftains at the interment were the erstwhile the Chief of Staff in ex-Governor Ladoja's government, Chief Sharafadeen Alli, and the state Coordinator of Yar'Adua/Goodluck for President in 2007, Chief Yemi Aderibigbe.

The Bodija, Ondo Street residence of Senator Ladoja was jam-packed with families and relatives of the deceased politicians mourning the death of their loved ones.

The painful experience was visible on the faces of the



• Ladoja

members of the affected families as they lined up to hear if their breadwinners were in the bus, while the relatives of those that died could not hold back tears.

## Gender imbalance worries rights group

**From Franca Ochigbo, Abuja**

WRAPA Secretary General Hajia Sa'adatu Maadi disclosed this while addressing reporters on *Raising Her Voice* project in Abuja.

will only five per cent of women could do that."

She went on: "In maternal mortality, Nigeria has one of the highest ratio in the world with an estimated 1,000