



• The ill-fated truck...yesterday

**N**INE persons, including two children, died in yesterday's accident when a containerised truck fell on a commercial bus in the Ojuelegba, Lagos State.

It was gathered that the commercial bus was loading passengers under the bridge when the truck, carrying a 20ft container, fell on it.

Witnesses said the bus was loaded to capacity, adding that many passengers sustained injuries.

Permanent Secretary of the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) Dr. Femi Oke-Osanyintolu, who confined the accident, said the dead included four men, three women and two children. He added that a woman was rescued alive, and that preliminary investigation showed that the truck lost control before falling.

He said: "After suspending the container load with a forklift, and cutting off the top of the bus with light rescue equip-

## Two kids, seven adults die as container falls on commercial bus

• 'Stop trucks from plying Ojuelegba bridge'

By Precious Igbonwelundu and Tony Akowe, Abuja

ment, an adult woman was extricated alive and taken to the trauma centre.

"Final casualty count is nine fatalities, comprising four adult males, three adult females, a boy-child and a girl-child.

"The agency's heavy duty Goliath and teams from Onipanu and Cappa are on ground. The agency's Ambulance, Lagos and Federal fire officers, LASTMA and police have been working on this situation which is now concluded. Further investigation will be carried out by the police on the removal of the barriers on the bridge aimed at preventing trucks from ascending."

Speaker of the House of Rep-

resentatives Femi Gbajabiamila has urged the Federal and Lagos State governments to stop containerised trucks from plying the Ojuelegba bridge. According to him, trucks should be mandated to ply only the under bridge.

A statement by his media aide, Lanre Lasisi, described the accident as unfortunate and sad. He hailed efforts of the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA), Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Police and others in evacuating the victims and rescuing one person.

The speaker called for immediate action and an investigation into the incident, saying "I was sad and shocked at the news. I became more broken-hearted when I saw the gory

images of the incident; this is unfortunate and unacceptable.

"This is not the first time such incident is happening in Lagos. I, therefore, call for immediate temporary installation of barriers as the case on Oba Akran - computer village, Ikeja, to prevent trailers from using the bridge and compelled to use the under bridge alternatively to avert recurrences. It is unacceptable for people to die in such a way at same spot multiple times."

Gbajabiamila, who condoled with the bereaved families, Surulere constituents and the Lagos State Government, prayed God to repose their souls and give their families the fortitude to bear the loss.