



## STATE NEWS CROSS RIVER

# Earthquake Claims Five Lives

—From Atta Asim—

**A**bout five persons have been reported dead following a major landslide, which wrecked a section of Agwagune Village in Biase Local Government Area of Cross River State.

The disaster which occurred recently at about 3 a.m., is said to be the most disastrous in recent times claiming the lives of a pregnant woman and four children.

Niger Delta STANDARD gathered that, the community has experienced two landslides in one week, with this last one in which the corpse

of dead persons were discovered in the river which is a major source of the ecological disaster.

According to analysis of the state Emergency and Disaster Management Agency, the slide consumed an area measuring 35,000 sq ft and destroyed a total of 15 houses.

Other details of the calamity include displacement of about 97 persons and destruction of property worth N12m and a possible occurrence of an earth tremor as a result of constant sweeping earth crust.

Lamenting the ordeal, a community leader Chief Mbe Eta, said the disaster

was grievous with many lives lost in spite of the efforts of the village rescue team.

Chief Eta called on the state and federal governments to redeem their promises to relocate the people to a safe environment and expressed willingness of the people to move.

Also speaking, the village head of Ikena Abang I, Chief Bernard Obeda, recalled with hard feelings the prediction of a study group from the Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies, which recommended an urgent action, otherwise the entire community will be extinct.

Chief Abang said so far,

over 800 persons have been affected by the erosion and frequent landslide and called for a timely intervention.

In his comment, the executive secretary of the state Disaster Management Agency, Mr Vincent Aqua, informed that the agency was ready to relocate the people as soon as necessary logistics were made available by federal and state governments.

He said for now the agency will limit itself to assisting the affected community with relief materials.