

the trail of the fleeing robbers.

officer.

sidelining the party and its leaders

# Fleeing Car Thief Kills Five

**EMMA UNA/Calabar**

A car thief who attempted to escape with a car crashed into traders along the Uyo-Calabar highway, killing five persons.

The thief, who gave his name as Chinedu, stole the new model Toyota Camry car with federal government registration number from a parking lot at Ibom Hall in Uyo on Saturday during a reception in honour of Obong Victor Attah.

He had driven off at top speed to escape arrest when he crushed the victims.

A source told *P.M. NEWS* that on getting to a pot hole on the Uyo-Calabar highway, the thief who threw away caution by overspeeding, lost control of the car and ran into the victims.

"I was driving at 120 km, which by all account, is top speed on this road. Suddenly, that car (the stolen car driven by Chinedu)

lashed into the crowd.

came from no where and flashed me. I quickly veered to the side of the road and he sped past. My friend with me screamed when the guy passed us.

"However, some metres ahead, there is this bad spot where young men and women sell cucumber, *ogbono*, maize and the rest. The young man, I think, lost control of the car and crashed into the women and a jeep that had slowed down on the bad spot," Captain Idris of the Nigerian Navy, Calabar narrated.

After the accident, which happened in the village of Ikot Nyong, the villagers screamed and wailed for their dead relatives.

An attempt by the thief to escape by smuggling himself into the back of a Hilux van was foiled as some of the youths spotted him and brought him down. He was given the beating of his life by the angry crowd that gathered. It took the effort of the police at a road block on the spot to save

his life.

The body of the woman and the occupant of the jeep who was also killed on the spot was taken to the mortuary at the General Hospital in Calabar.

The thief was taken into custody by the police at Odukpani Police Divisional headquarters.

The Uyo-Calabar highway has become a death trap of sort owing to the dangerous potholes that dot the highway.

Heavy duty trucks which go to Akamkpa to haul crushed rock from a quarry have damaged the road even as they also cause fatal accidents frequently on the road.

## Change Of Name

Former MISS PRISCA ULUMMA NKIRU CHIKERE, now to be known as MRS. PRISCA ULUMMA NKIRU OKORO. Former documents remain valid.