

4 die in Aba auto crash

From **Okey Sampson,**
Aba

TRAGEDY struck in the Abia State commercial city of Aba on Tuesday as four persons were sent to their graves when an articulated truck rammed into two commercial tricycles and a Toyota Sienna Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV).

It was gathered that the truck, which was loaded with empty beer bottles was heading towards the Emugu/Port Harcourt Expressway when before get-

ting to Osisima junction, its brakes failed and the vehicle rammed into the two commercial tricycles and the SUV.

An eyewitness had it that when the truck, which was on top speed rammed into the tricycles, it pushed them into a nearby ditch and discharged some of its contents on the victims. There was palpable fear in the area that more persons might have been trapped inside the ditch, which was said to have been dug close to the road by a construction company.

The whereabouts of the truck driver was yet unknown as he was suspected to have fled the scene immediately after the incident.

At the time of filing this report a combined team of men of the Abia State Fire Service, Army and Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) personnel were still searching to see if more bodies were trapped inside the ditch. When contacted, the Aba Commander of the FRSC, Okora Awassam, confirmed the incident and attributed it to brake failure.

Awassam, who could not confirm the number of casualties, said rescue operations were still on going to find out if there were more victims in the ditch.

"We have called for the help of army and fire servicemen to help us secure the place and to pump out water from the ditch to know if there are people still there.

"As we speak, bottles from the truck are still in the ditch and until the water is removed, we can't say if there are bodies inside the ditch or not," she said.