

## Explosion: Crew manifest found, 7 feared dead

By Godfrey Bivbere & Yemie Adeoye

**S**EVEN out of the 24 crew members in the ship that exploded during the week are feared dead. Sources said that seven were feared dead when the manifest of the ship was seen and out of the 24 crew members, 17 were accounted for while 7 were missing.

Assistant General Manager (AGM) Public Affairs of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Mr. Christopher Borha, yesterday said that from investigation

carried out by the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), it was discovered that the explosion was caused by a problem in the "change over switch that controls the ship to shore."

Borha also noted that the fire which was still burning as at Thursday evening as been finally put off. He explained that as at the time of the explosion, the vessel was still laden with about four million liters of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS, popularly known as petrol).

Although the NPA image

maker refused to comment on inquires whether there were any death or injury to crew members, an unconfirmed report said that three persons may have died while two others with critically burns are in a private hospital.

A source in the safety department of Obat Petroleum, owners of the vessel told Vanguard that the corpse of an unidentified male was found floating around the area of the vessel. The source also confirmed that a member of the crew was able to get in touch with one of his colleagues late Thursday evening on phone.

Owners of the vessel still refused to speak on the incident to journalists yesterday.

Head of the Corporate Affairs Department of NMA, Hajia Lami Tumaka told Vanguard when contacted that there is no new information from what was made available yesterday. Tumaka explained that until officials of the survey department completes their investigation, there would be nothing new to say.

## ANPP fixes August 24 for Convention

By Ben Agande, Abuja

**T**HE All Nigeria Peoples Party, ANPP has fixed the 24th of August for its national convention to elect national officers to pilot the affairs of the party and prepare it for the 2007 general elections.

Announcing the new date at its expanded national Executive Council meeting in Abuja yesterday, the chairman of the caretaker committee of the party, Senator Ali Modu Sheriff said the national convention of the