

# Auto crash: 30 feared drowned in Lagos lagoon

By **Olasunkanmi Akoni & Albert Akoni**

**L**AGOS — THIRTY people were feared dead while four others were rescued in an auto accident on the Third-Mainland Bridge in Lagos, yesterday. The accident involved a commercial bus popularly called *Molue* and a Honda car.

The accident occurred at about 9 a.m. opposite the University of Lagos (UNILAG) Campus. The survivors were rushed to General Hospitals in the metropolis for medical treatment.

The driver of the commercial vehicle with number plate OGUN: XB 333 AAB was said to have unexpectedly lost control and in the process, swerved and hit the Honda car with number plate XM 457 JJJ.

The impact of the clash, according to an eyewitness, sent passengers flying from the bus into the lagoon. Only the railing of the bridge prevented the bus itself from plunging into the lagoon. Save for the mercy of God, the bus would have plunged into the lagoon, an eyewitness who simply identified himself as Mr. Akin said.

The accident caused a traffic jam on the bridge.

Akin blamed the driver of the commercial vehicle for over-speeding. "I am sure if he had not over sped, he would have been able to control the vehicle and thereby avoided or minimised the effect of the accident," he said.

The Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), Mrs. Adeyinka Gbemibade, said four people had been rescued at press time by "fishermen around the scene of the incident." She added that the owner of the Honda 'salon car sustained a serious injury and was receiving attention from the state

Ambulance Services (LA-SAMBUS).

Rescuers recovered the body of a pregnant woman from the lagoon.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Ojajuni Olabode, could not give any figure as he said efforts at getting the victims out of the water were still on. "What happened is that the marine policemen are on ground. Other rescue workers including local divers are there and so it will be wrong to give accurate figures. Only one person was brought out dead for now while others were still in the water. I shall give details when we finish," he said.

## Soludo hails *Vanguard*

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tor that is still undergoing revolution.

"The pictures speak better than a thousand words. The review shows where the banks were years before the reform

and to where the banks are today.

"The banking sector is worth celebrating. Those in the banks and the financial sector generally are worth celebrating. Therefore, I congratulate the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of banks that