

# Nine perish in Bayelsa auto crash

By Samuel Oyadongha

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**YENAGOA—TRAGEDY** struck Tuesday night at the Opolo suburb of Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital as nine persons lost their lives in an auto crash.

Ironically, a six year old boy whose mother also lost her life miraculously survived the ghastly accident which caused serious traffic hold up along the Opolo axis of the Mbiama-Yenagoa road.

The tragic incident occurred at about 9p.m. when an olive green ten-seater Toyota Liteace passenger bus with registration number XA 221 NTT rammed into a stationary tipper loaded with chip-pings killing nine of its occupants instantly while the only survivor, a six year boy cheated death by the whiskers though with serious injuries and is currently on admission at the Federal Medical Centre, Yenagoa.

Witnesses told *Vanguard* that the ill-fated intra-city bus was heading to Yenagoa filled with passengers when tragedy struck at Opolo opposite the newly commissioned Stella Obasanjo Way killing the driver, his conductor and seven others.

It was learnt that the accident was caused by a stationary tipper loaded with chip-pings whose driver was said to have abandon the vehicle on fast lane of the road without any caution sign and walked across to the other side of the road to negotiate

with an unidentified person for a space to discharge the content of his truck.

The driver of the passenger who was said to be on high speed oblivious of danger ahead on account of poor visibility rammed into the stationary tipper killing all his passengers but for the only survivor a little boy whose miraculous escape was the subject of discussion among sympathizers that thronged the scene of the accident Wednesday morning.

This reporter who visited the scene of the accident, Wednesday, morning saw the badly damaged passenger bus filled with blood and the mangled remains of some of its occupants while the truck said to have caused the accident had been removed by its owner.

## Polls: Youths in Ba

By Samuel Oyadongha

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**YENAGOA—AGAINST** the groundswell of opposition against the candidature of Chief Timipre Sylva/Peremobowei Ebebi as PDP governorship flag bearer and running mate by the party, stalwarts from the Bayelsa West/Central senatorial districts, the group, Yenagoa Youths Association and Excellent Leadership Foundation has pleaded with the