

## Nine persons feared dead as gunboat, passenger boat collide

By Samuel Oyadongha

**YENAGOA—TRAGEDY** struck yesterday in Bayelsa State as no fewer than nine persons were feared dead when a naval gunboat rammed into a passenger boat at the Yenagoa water front (Nun River).

However four corpses including that of a child have been recovered and deposited at the Federal Medical Centre, Yenagoa which was besieged by terrified residents of the capital city as news of the tragic incident filtered into town.

It was gathered that the Naval boat was escorting a house boat belonging to one of the oil companies to an undisclosed location when it rammed head on into the Yamaha 40 horsepower passenger fiber boat with 14 persons on board.

The driver of the ill-fated passenger boat, Mr. Ataribo Memeni who spoke to *Vanguard* at the Federal Medical Centre (FMC) Yenagoa at about 7.45pm said he was leaving Yenagoa for Famgbe, opposite Yenagoa when the tragic incident occurred.

Famgbe is a stone-throw

from the capital city but could only be accessed by boat.

A shocked Memeni said he was taken aback when the naval gunboat negotiated the sharp bend on high speed and rammed into his boat in broad day light at about 4pm.

He said five persons survived, while four bodies including that of a child have been recovered from the river and deposited at the FMC, Yenagoa.

Five others are yet to be recovered as at the time of filing this report.

One Inesai Enimasomp who works with the National Directorate of Employment also told *Vanguard* at the FMC that his father, Chief J.C. Nathaniel survived the accident and is receiving treatment at the emergency ward of the hospital.

When contacted, the commander of the military joint taskforce in the Niger Delta in charge of Bayelsa State, Lt. Col. Chris Musa confirmed the incident at about 8pm.

Musa who said he was returning from Port Harcourt said he had just received information of the incident which he described as a very bad one.

## Expatriate, two children abducted in Port Harcourt ....Soldier killed

By George Onah & Jimitota Onoyume

**PORT HARCOURT —** ONE soldier was yesterday killed at the scene of the kidnap of an expatriate in Port Harcourt, yesterday.

A few hours before then, two children of a PDP top notch in the state, Mr. Ephram Nwuzi, were also kidnapped.

The two children: eight-year old Wisdom and his brother Allwell, were abducted at 7 a.m. while being taken to school around Phase Two GRA, Port Harcourt. They are pupils of Groove Nursery School.

Apparently, the kidnapped expatriate is a staff of Julius Berger. He was said to be on an inspection tour of the project being handled by the firm in the state capital.

Spokesman of the Joint Task Force in the state, Lieutenant Col Sagir Musa confirmed the development to newsmen. And he said efforts were on to secure the release of those abducted.

"Information at JTF's disposal has it that the children of the former chairman of Etche Local Government Council of Rivers State were abducted this morning while going to school by yet-to-be-identified criminals.

Also confirming the incidents, Police Public Relations

Officer Ireju Barasua, Deputy Superintendent of Police said the police were aware of the kidnap of the two children and investigating the matter with a view to bringing the culprits to book."

*Vanguard* gathered that the attack on Julius Berger's camp was around 11 am not long after the expatriate worker arrived at the area to inspect the on-going construction work at the East/West Highway awarded by the Federal Government.

## Adamawa a PDP di

By Umar Yusuf

**YOLA—ADAMAWA** State acting governor, Mr. James Barka and the state chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP may well be on collision course over the dissolution of the state Executive Council and the 21 local government caretaker committees.

Chairman of the party in the state, Alhaji Mijinyawa Umaru Kugama told the acting Governor during a courtesy call that the party is not happy with the way and manner the dissolution of the two structures put in place by the