

## NEWS

# 19 die in Benin-Ore road crash

BY JOHN BOSCO  
AGBAKWURU

**C**ALABAR—NO fewer than 19 persons were killed in auto crash, yesterday, along Benin-Ore road as a diesel tanker collided with a commercial vehicle, killing all the passengers except one.

The bus, belonging to Hope Express Transport Company, was carrying 19 persons. It reportedly took off from Lagos heading to the South-East when the accident occurred. Only one of the passengers survived and was rushed to a hospital in Benin City.

An eyewitness told Vanguard that he was travelling along the road when the accident occurred, adding that most of the "bodies of the victims were badly mangled."

He said: "There was blood everywhere with the property of the casualties littering the area."

Some of the sympathisers at the scene of the accident blamed the sad

development on breach of traffic regulations by motorists.

The tanker driver was alleged to have abandoned his lane and crossed the pavement.

Corpses of the victims were taken to a mortuary in Benin and

the tanker driver arrested by the police for interrogation.

In a related development, few kilometres away from the scene, there was another fatal accident involving a trailer and a Mercedes Benz, which left

property worth several thousands of naira destroyed.

Eyewitnesses at the scene of the accident claimed that serious cases of injury were recorded as the Mercedes car was terribly damaged.

## Gbaramatu youths threaten to sue Chevron over GMoU

BY SIMON  
EBEGBULEM

**B**ENIN—GBARAMATU youths in Warri South-West Local Government Area of Delta State have threatened to drag Chevron Nigeria Limited and Egbema Gbaramatu Communities Development Foundation, EGCDF, to court if they fail to halt the ongoing review of the Global Memorandum of Understanding, GMoU, between Chevron and the communities.

Youth leader in Gbaramatu Kingdom, Mr. Ubebe Felix, who made this known in a

statement in Benin, said: "The resolve of the youths was that the constitution of EGCDF has to be reviewed before engaging in a fresh GMoU because the GMoU which was signed in 2005 was done according to the dictates of that constitution."

"What we told Chevron and the leadership of EGCDF was that all the stakeholders must make input in the review of the constitution before an acceptable GMoU is done. As it is now, we cannot get justice if a fresh GMoU is entered into without the review of the constitution."

"They are trying to review GMoU without the involvement of the relevant stakeholders. This is another plot by

Chevron to further pauperise and marginalise our people by using some elders."

"They cannot deprive the people of Gbaramatu Kingdom of their rights and they must stop what they are doing now in the interest of peace."

"If they fail to stop further discussions on the fresh GMoU, youths in Gbaramatu Kingdom will drag them to court and fight for our rights."

"We have it on good authority that Chevron has cajoled and induced the executives of EGCDF to skip the review of the constitution and commence a kangaroo review of the GMoU to cover the injustice done to the host communities in their area of operations."

## Nigerian NGO in name-dropping mess in S/Africa

BY ROTIMI AJAYI

**O**NE of the Nigerian Non-Governmental Organizations present at the on-going Climate

who longed to hear African ladies speak on the threats of climate change on the people in Africa.

Those who attended the

