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Osita Chidoka

Five children die in Abeokuta auto crash

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By **Dimeji Kayode-Adedeji**
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Five children were, at the weekend, killed in a multiple auto crash at Osiele, a suburb of Abeokuta, Ogun State, with several others sustaining various degree of injuries and receiving treatment in hospital as at the time of this report.

The accident occurred at about 9pm last Saturday when a woman driving at top speed along the Osiele-Abeokuta-Ibadan Road lost control and rammed into a pick-up with 18 children inside. The impact of the crash was said to have claimed the lives of five of the children immediately.

The pick-up van was said to have been forced into a truck that was parked by the road side, killing the wife of the driver of the van instantly.

Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) in Ogun State, Dele Adigun, said the woman who ran into the van was believed to have lost control as a result of over-speeding.

"Nobody knows where the pick-up van was coming from with such large number of children, who were packed at the back of the pick-up van," Mr. Adigun said. "The woman, who ran into the pick-up van from behind was over-speeding and lost control of the car. It was strange that the woman, who was alone in the car, could be speeding like that at that late hour.

"On impact, the children at the back of the pick-up van were 'scattered' and five of them died instantly. The pick-up van, which was hit from behind, crushed into a stationary truck which was parked by the roadside. The woman, who was the wife of the driver, was torn to shreds on impact with the truck," he said.

While stating that the corpses had being taken to the State Hospital, Ijaiye, Abeokuta, the FRSC boss also explained that other victims are receiving treatment, while the car of the woman behind the accident has been detained at the police station.

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