

# *Bakassi self-determination leader, five others killed in crash*

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**F**ate has played a cruel act on Bakassi as Tony Ene, leader of the Bakassi Self-Determination Movement (BAMOSD), was killed in an auto crash with three other persons.

Already, the Bakassi peninsula, believed to be rich in oil, was physically surrendered to Cameroon Monday at an event that took place at Archibong Town in eastern Bakassi.

Nigeria in the presence of the United Nations representative and other members of the international community handed over Bakassi to her eastern neighbour, Cameroon.

Ene, along with many other young people, had on August 6 declared the island as an independent state.

The declaration took place at Abana, headquarters of Bakassi peninsula, and five flags were mounted at different locations in the peninsula.

According to information pieced together by BusinessDay in Calabar, the accident took place at Okurikang in Odukpani Local Government Area of Cross River State on the Calabar - Itu - Ikot Ekpene - Aba highway.

It was learnt that the late

leader was driving in his Toyota Corolla car with three other persons.

Our source informed that the driver (Ene) tried to avoid hitting a motorcyclist (Okada) who was carrying a lady believed to be his (Okada rider's) wife. Ene swerved the car and collided with a Nissan bus.

Ene, the three occupants in his car, and two persons in the bus died, while nine others sustained severe injuries.

A Federal Road Safety Commission report said four persons died on the spot of the accident, while two others died on the way to a hospital. It added that nine persons sustained severe injuries.

The sector commander of office confirmed the incident. But state police public relations officer, Tom Adama Okpene, told BusinessDay that he was yet to receive the report from the divisional police officer in Odukpani.

It was, however, not clear where the BAMOSD leader and the occupants of his car were headed.

It would be recalled that since the August 6 declaration, all the members of the movement had been in hiding as the Joint Task Force Operation Harmony in Bakassi command had been looking out to arrest them.