

DENNIS UDOMA, *Uyo*

2 die in auto crash

➔ **A**T least two persons, including a youth corps member were feared dead weekend, with many injured during a fatal accident involving a commercial bus which burst its rear tyre and somersaulted along Ikot Abasi-Abak road, Akwa Ibom State.

The ill-fated 18-seater bus with registration number; XB154 BNY (Rivers) according to an eye

➔ witness account was travelling from Port Harcourt to Calabar, the Cross River State capital when the back tyre of the vehicle burst and incidentally somersaulted into the bush.

Although the profile of the victims could not be ascertained as at press time, *Daily Champion* gathered that a middle-aged male

corps member died on the spot.

It was also learnt that about three corps members were in the vehicle but documents and passports retrieved from the scene of the accident identified one of them as Mr Joseph Edem Essien, AB 05B/126 as well as a GSM phone number; 08053007660, while another was said to be gasping for help but died later.

Our correspondent who traced the other victims to a local clinic, Family Foundation Hospital at Ekparakwa in Oruk Anam local government area said it was confirmed that most of the victims were in coma.

According to a source, another victim, Miss Blessing Inyang Udoma from Utu-Edem Usung in Ikot Ekpene local government of Akwa Ibom and also a 200 level student of the Department of Environmental Protection Management, University of Calabar who was later transferred to Mercy Hospital Abak confirmed that they were travelling from Port Harcourt to Calabar when the incident happened.

Others were receiving treatment but attempt by our correspondent to speak to the medical director of the hospital failed as he was said to be very busy.

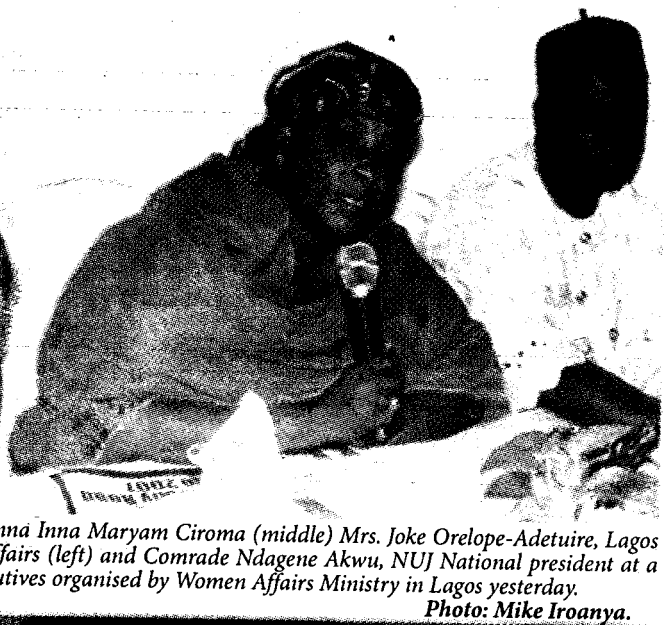


Photo: Mike Iroanya.