

2 pupils, others perish in auto crash

SIX persons, including two school children, were feared dead Friday in Lagos when a commercial bus (molue) lost control on the Agege Motor Road. The victims included two school children, a woman and three men.

A correspondent of the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* who witnessed the incident reported that several others were also injured in the crash. The commercial bus reportedly lost control after losing one of its tyres while in motion. Thereafter, it scaled the median to the other side of the road where it ploughed through bystanders at the bus stop, including the ones feared dead.

Another critically-injured school boy suspected to be a relation of the two who died, kept shouting "oh, my brother, oh, my brother". Sympathisers and rescuers placed the corpses side-by-side the crushed car and the mangled motorcycle. A police source, who confirmed the incident, said six persons died on the spot. He added that the driver of the bus had been arrested and was being detained at the Area 'F' Police Command in Ikeja.

The source said that the corpses of the deceased had been deposited at a public mortuary in Ikeja. A lawyer, who wept uncontrollably at the scene, told NAN that government should

phase out the 'molue' bus in Lagos. "Most of the 'molue' buses are more than 30 years old and have become unsafe for passengers," the lawyer who declined to give his name, added. The bus, with registration number of (LAGOS) LG 72-AAA, was later towed away by officials of the Ikeja local government council, to ease traffic flow.

Contacted on the incident, acting Lagos Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Olumide Jimoh, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) said he was not aware of the tragedy.

Shonekan, Akin

WILLY EYA

PROMINENT Nigerians have continued to commiserate with the family of late elder statesman and veteran politician, Otunba Theophilus Owolabi Showale Benson who passed on last Wednesday, February 13.

Some of the latest callers in his Falomo, Ikoyi Lagos residence include former Head of state, Chief Ernest Shonekan, former minister of information, Chief Alex Akinyele, former Attorney General of Lagos state, Chief Babatunde Oki (SAN) among others.