

Lecturer dies in auto crash

FIFTEEN people, including a lecturer at the Auchi Polytechnic on Saturday lost their lives when an 18-seater bus conveying them had a head-on collision with an oncoming trailer.

FRSC officials at the scene told the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* that only one person survived the accident, which occurred at 2 p.m. near the "dangerous Ewu-Agbede Hill".

They said the lone survivor was rushed to Faith Medical Hospital along Auchi-Okene road. The bus carrying 16 passengers was traveling from Benin to Auchi, when the incident occurred.

The officials said the accident was caused by over-speeding and dangerous overtaking by the bus driver who also lost his life.

According to an eye

witness, Mr. Paul Umoru.

"Those lives would not have been lost but for the recklessness of the bus driver, who overtook several vehicles on high speed before colliding with the oncoming trailer.

"You know how narrow this road is, he could not escape it, and even if he had done otherwise the result would still have been the same because the bus would probably have plunged into the ditch.

"There have been several calls on the government to dualise the road and the more such calls are ignored, the more lives are lost on it," Umoru said.

NAN reports that as at the time of filing this report, officers of the FRSC were still trying to remove the mangled bodies of the victims.