

Auto crash: 6 die in Ogun

SIX unidentified persons are believed to have lost their lives in a motor accident on Friday in Odogbolu Local Government Area of Ogun, according to an eyewitness account.

The eyewitness said the car in which the deceased were travelling from Lagos swerved off the road on the Odogbolu Bridge and fell into the river.

According to the eyewitness, the driver was travelling on top speed when he lost control.

The zonal commanding officer of the Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Corps, Ijebu Command, Mr. Ajibade Ariyo, confirmed the incident, saying that none of the passengers in the car survived.

Ajibade, however, said that the number of the passengers inside the vehicle could not be ascertained during the rescue period.

“For now we cannot ascertain the number of the passengers that were inside the car because nobody was inside when it was pulled out from the river.”

“It will take about

two or three days for us to know the number because by then the bodies would be floating,” he said.

Ajibade explained that

the driver of the car, with registration number AY 962EY, who was alleged to have been travelling on top speed, had a burst tyre and crashed into the

river.

Ajibade said the vehicle had been pulled out of the river and towed to the Odogbolu Police Station.

Muslim group tasks governments on housing

MUSLIM Congress (TMC), a religious organisation, has called on the three tiers of government to show more commitment to the provision of housing for all citizens.

The organisation made the call in a statement issued by its President, Mr. Luqman AbdurRaheem, in commemoration of this year's World Population Day.

“We call on all levels of governments to be sincere with regards to housing issues in Nigeria, because previous interventions and huge investments in housing provisions went down the drain.

“This is making Nigeria's housing problems intractable. May Allah sustain this great nation,” the statement, said.

It recalled that the event was established by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1989 vide Decision 89/46.

“It was inspired by the

public interest in “Five Billion Day” on July 11, 1987, the date the world's population reached five billion people.

“As we celebrate this year's edition, The Muslim Congress (TMC) advises the Federal Government and National Planning Commission to give special attention to the problem of housing as the world celebrates another World Population Day on Sunday, July 11, 2010,” the statement said.

It said the choice of housing as theme for this year's World Population Day, was based on the fact that housing posed the greatest challenge to Nigeria as a nation.

The statement observed that many Nigerians live in slums, dilapidated buildings and shanty towns without clean water, toilets and ventilation.

“At 50 years, Nigerians deserve better. When the citizens are better housed, their privacy, security and

self-esteem would be enhanced and guaranteed,” it added.

“The contentious N10 billion earmarked for the forthcoming Golden Jubilee of Nigeria could best be channeled to worthwhile investment in housing for the poor.

“The impact of housing is more visible and lasting than, a day of songs, celebration and frivolities,” the statement added.

While praising President Goodluck Jonathan for starting well, it said that he would do better by declaring a state of emergency in the housing sector as he did for power.

“The impact of housing development is quickly seen and felt than energy sustainability,” the statement noted.

World Population Day is an annual event, observed on July 11, to raise awareness of global population issues and challenges.