

Auto crash claims 14 in Delta

BARRY AGBANIGBI, Asaba

SECOND in two weeks, another auto-crash, Friday, claimed 14 more persons on accident-prone Abraka-Obiaruku road, Ukwuani Local Government Area of Delta State.

Tears flowed freely at the scene of the accident later ceased when the only three-months old child of a Police Inspector miraculously survived as he was taken out of the vehicle unhurt.

Two physically-challenged persons and two other females whose identities were not immediately ascertained, were rescued by sympathizers and were immediately rushed to hospital for medical attention.

Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) image maker, Mr. Julius Bassey who could neither confirm casualty figure nor deny, describe the incident as a tragedy. "It is very unfortunate especially at this time of the year," he said.

The 18-seater bus said to be on a top speed, reportedly skidded off the road after losing one of its front tyres and somersaulted twice.

Five handicapped persons who were on a protest mission from Warri to Asaba were among the victims.

They were to join others at Asaba to organise a protest to the Delta State Government House over

what they described as total neglect and insensitivity to their plight.

One of the physically-challenged, Emma Efe, who narrowly escaped death, said they had intended to mobilize to the seat of power to request

the government to address issues which affected their welfare.

He, however, attributed the cause of the accident to over speeding and reckless driving.

He said it was unfortunate that he had lost his friends in the struggle for improved condition of living.

Apo 6: Court adjourns for adoption of written addresses

AN Abuja High Court on Friday adjourned suit on Apo Six killing to March 6 for counsels to file written address over the legal tussle to recall one of the witnesses.

At the resumed hearing of the case, Mr. Chris Uche, the prosecution counsel, had recalled one of the witnesses when the counsel to the first accused, Mr. Rickey Tarfa, raised an objection.

Mr. Ede Ayuba, an Assistant Commissioner of Police, was recalled to the witness box for continuation of cross examination by the prosecuting counsel.

Tarfa, counsel to Danjuma Ibrahim, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), one of the accused, had raised a legal issue, saying that before a witness

could be recalled certain special circumstance must be established.

He said: "The evidence the witness is coming to give must relate to his earlier testimony. It is not an opportunity for the witness to give fresh evidence or re-testify by filling in the gaps created in his earlier testimony accordingly.

"The prosecution is required by law to make an application and not just to inform the court that he has two witnesses, who indeed, turned out to be witnesses being recalled.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) recalled that the court had on Thursday admitted a medical report on the autopsy carried out on the five auto spare parts dealers and their female companion, allegedly killed by six policemen.

Those killed were Ifeanyi Ozo, Chinedu Meniru, Isaac Ekene, Paulinus Ogbonna, Anthony Nwokieke and Tina Arebun.

The deceased aged between 21 and 25 years were returning from a night party in 2005 when they were killed by the policemen.

The policemen standing trial are: Danjuma Ibrahim a deputy commissioner of police and Othman Abdulsalami, an assistant superintendent of police, still at large.

The others include Nicholas Zacharia, Emmanuel Baba, Emmanuel Acheneje and Sadiq Salami, were all constables.

My husband
alcoholic