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Dead man's wife, daughter die taking corpse home

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It was triple tragedy for the family of late Chibuzor Nwakwe, when his wife and senior daughter died in a fatal motor accident, while carrying his corpse to Imo State for burial on Friday.

The accident which occurred at Abaji occurred in the morning and involved a Julius Berger van and a truck.

One of the injured victims, Mr Anthony Agomuo of Julius Berger, said late Chibuzor Nwakwe was a Julius Berger staff, who died on December 2, 2009 at the age of 51 years.

He said on that fateful day, the company released two vans to convey the corpse, the deceased person's wife, three children as well as relations and friends from Abuja to Imo State for the burial ceremony. "We picked the corpse up from the company's clinic at 8.30 am and proceeded on the journey but somewhere around Abaji, a truck on high speed was overtaking in a reckless manner and it rammed into the van carrying us," Agomuo said.

He said the deceased person's wife died instantly, while his 15-year-old daughter, Nneka died in the hospital. "The company's driver also died instantly, while 12 persons sustained serious injuries, including the deceased person's son and daughter," he stated.

Our reporter who visited Julius Berger Clinic at Life Camp learnt that 11 of the injured persons including the deceased person's under-aged son were transferred to National Hospital because of the seriousness of their cases.

A relation to the deceased, Mr Anthony Njoku, said he was at home when news about the incident reached him and he had to rush to the clinic to see things for himself. "How can a whole family be wiped off in the same month? He wondered.

Mrs Ngozi Amadi, a co-worker of the deceased, sympathised with the family and called on the federal government to do something about Abaji road.

"Accidents occur on that road frequently due to dangerous overtaking and reckless driving and the government should do something to stop the senseless waste of human lives," she said.

Other family members of the deceased person described his death as mysterious, adding that he died just when he was named to collect an award for working at Julius Berger for 10 years.

"He died on December 2 and was to collect the award on December 4," a worker at Julius Berger said.

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