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27 die on Katsina, Benin-Ore roads

Thursday, 10 March 2011 04:55

Lawal Ibrahim, **Katsina** & Vincent Egunyanga, Benin



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Twenty seven persons died in auto crashes in **Katsina** and **Edo** highways on Tuesday night. The crash at Bakiyawa Village in Batsari Local Government Area of **Katsina** State late Tuesday claimed 13 lives, leaving 11 others critically injured.

Daily Trust gathered that the accident occurred at about 8:30 pm between a Mitsubishi Canter with registration number XA 680 DGW loaded with 26 passengers heading to Batsari from **Katsina** and an articulated tipper with registration number XF 363 KTN belonging to a construction firm, UBSAR Nig. Ltd.

A witness, Hassan Bakiyawa, who spoke to newsmen said the Canter driver attempted to overtake three cars when he ran into the articulated vehicle coming from the opposite direction. Mallam Hassan who claimed to have helped in evacuating about 16 bodies and the injured to the Federal Medical Centre in **Katsina** said the head of the Canter driver was smashed into the tipper and was hard to recognize.

Sector Commander of the FRSC, Habu Dauda, confirmed the death of 13 persons and attributed it to reckless driving and dangerous overtaking. The official who listed the casualties to include three children, eight men and two women, pledged to meet with traditional leaders in order to intensify campaign for motorists on safety and dangers of reckless driving.

Fourteen persons were also reported dead in a ghastly motor accident Tuesday night along the Benin-Ore road. Five persons sustained serious injuries in the incident which involved a Hummer bus and a truck at kilometer 18 of the road close to the Ogbemudia Farm. The driver of the bus with registration number XY 234 FST was returning from Lagos and moving towards Onitsha in Anambra State when he ran into the oncoming truck marked XE 887 AWK at about 7:20pm. Among the dead were six females and eight males whose corpses were deposited at the University Teaching Hospital (UBTH) Benin. The real cause of the accident was yet to be ascertained at the time of filing this report but our reporter gathered that the driver of the commercial bus was on top speed and about to overtake another vehicle but ran into the trailer. Passersby and policemen pulled out some of the trapped victims. The state commander of the FRSC, Mr. Olatunji Henry Sunday, attributed the accident to either overspeeding or overtaking, adding that both the dead and survivors were taken to the UBTH.