

Five die in Ondo-Akure road crash

*From Julius Alabi,
Akure*

TRAGEDY struck last Tuesday's evening in Akure, the Ondo State capital as five persons lost their lives in a road accident, which occurred at Aponmu village on Akure-Ondo road.

It was a most heart-rending spectacle as all the passengers of the vehicles involved in the accident died instantly on the spot.

A similar accident occurred at the same spot barely two weeks ago when a family of four was crushed to death by a water tanker.

Eyewitness said the accident happened when a brown car with three passengers on board, which was coming from Ondo and heading toward Akure, had a burst rear tyre and went into a head-on collision with a Datsun Laurel Car with Registration Number AX899KTU.

When *The Guardian* vis-

ited the scene of the accident, some bodies of the victims were still being removed from the wreckage.

Although sympathisers promptly responded to the

emergency using axes and cutlasses with which they free the mangled bodies of the victims from the wreckage. All the five occupants of both vehicles had died before help could reach them.

An identification card on one of the victims picked

up at the scene of the carnage showed him as a staff of Guinness Nigeria, Plc, Benin district.

A commercial motorcyclist blamed the driver of the Honda car, who had allegedly overtaken him at top speed shortly before the accident.

The bodies of the victims have been deposited at the mortuary of the state's Specialist Hospital, Akure.

Free N100m drugs for HIV/AIDS patients in Sokoto

ANTI-RETROVIRAL drugs worth N00 million have been bought by the Sokoto State government for free distribution to victims of Human Immune Virus/ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIVAIDS) virus in the state.

The state commissioner for health, Alhaji Abubakar Amale, announced this on Tues-

day in Sokoto, at the weekly ministerial news briefing of the Sokoto State Council of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ).

The government was providing treatment and support services in most government hospitals, he said, adding that the state's Action Committee on AIDS headed by Governor Attahiru Bafarawa

had been established.

"The HIV project in the state assisted by the World Bank has reached an advanced stage of take-off," he said.

According to Amale, advocacy and sensitisation meeting have been held with various stakeholders in the state toward the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS.