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Three police officers die, six injured in Bayelsa road crash

From Willie Etim, Yenagoa

BARELY 12 hours after Glory Drive, an inter-state road was opened by the Bayelsa State government, three police officers were yesterday feared dead in a road mishap on the highway, while six others were seriously wounded when their patrol van somersaulted several times.

The road was unveiled on Monday to mark the visit of President Musa Yar'Adua to the state.

Eight other officers in the vehicle marked Kaiyama Police Division escaped with various degree of injuries and were in critical condition at the General Hospital, Okolobiri.

The Guardian learnt that the patrol van conveying the policemen of the rank and file from the state capital after special duty assignment during President Musa Yar'Adua visit to the state capital, somersaulted three times due to the sudden burst of the front tyre.

When The Guardian visited the Police Command Headquarters in Yenagoa yesterday, some policemen gathered in groups discussing the incident.

The Commissioner of Police, Mr. Onuhua Udoka, had already visited the Specialist Hospital to see the injured officers, while the bodies of the victims had been deposited in the morgue.

The spokesman of the Police Command, Iniobong Ibonkette, however, debunked the linkage of the incident to Yar'Adua's visit.

Ibonkette lamented the loss of the officers but said "the incident was a mere road mishap and not connected with the President's visit to the state."

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