

Auto Crash Claims Eight In Akure

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Eight persons were killed, while 14 others were seriously injured, as a result of a motor accident that occurred at the weekend at Irekari village along the Akure-Benin Expressway near Akure, the Ondo State capital.

The accident occurred when a Toyota 18-Seater bus that had on board, traders from nearby Ogbese market with loads of yam tubers and other farm produce,

collided with a commercial bus belonging to Cross Country Nigeria Ltd.

A witness said a Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) marshal, driving a car with registration number, RS 356 AOI, serial number, 1128, gave the Toyota bus loaded with yams a chase, for failing to stop for routine check.

In an attempt to escape from the road marshal, the bus ended up in a head-on collision with an oncoming bus.

The General Manager (Opera-

tions) of Cross Country Transport Company, Omoba Adekunle Odunewu, decried the role played by FRSC men in the fatal accident.

Odunewu, who spoke with newsmen at the State Specialist Hospital, Akure, where the remains of the victims were deposited, said he lost three persons including the driver of his bus, Felix Ebor, while five traders inside the other vehicle also died.

He, however said that the Company will institute a legal

action against the road marshals to seek redress so as to serve as a deterrent to others.

The Chief medical Director of the State Specialist Hospital, Akure, Dr. Rotimi Fasidi, who also confirmed the incident said about six dead bodies were brought to the hospital while 14 seriously injured persons were on admission, receiving treatment.

"We have been treating the victims of the accident with our drugs because we realised that

they are without relatives", he said. According to him, the drugs are from the hospital's Emergency Department and were being provided by the State government.

He appealed to the relatives of those on admission at the hospital to come over and take care of them. Efforts to get the Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Mr. Ahmed Hassan, proved abortive as he was said to have gone out for official assignment.