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Nine killed as tipper, taxi cab collide in Cross River

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By Bassey inyang / Calabar

Nine people were killed in a road accident at Adim community, Biase Local Government Area, Cross River State.

The accident, which occurred along Calabar-Ikom-Ogoja road, about 200 kilometres from Calabar was as a result of a head on collision between a truck (tipper) and a blue taxi cab.

According to eye witness account, the two vehicles were moving from opposite directions, with the truck coming from the Calabar axis, while the taxi cab, with 11 passengers on board, was moving from the Ogoja-Ikom axis.

It was gathered that one of the three passengers that survived at the scene of the accident, later died at the General Hospital in Ugep, a neighbouring town after Adim in Yakurr Local Government Area, where they were taken to for immediate medical attention.

Eye witnesses told *Daily Independent* that the driver of the tipper was trying to dodge some potholes when it veered off its lane and collided head with the taxi cab, which was maintaining its right of way.

It was gathered that a similar accident occurred at the same spot on October 10, 2010 under a similar circumstance.

They said the police personnel from Biase Divisional Headquarters arrived the scene of the accident, some minutes after, and conveyed the corpses of the deceased to the morgue in Ugep General Hospital.

An eye witness said contacts made to the Federal Road Safety Corp (FRSC), Itigidi, Abi Local Government, about 10 minutes drive to the scene of the accident, yielded no fruitful results as calls put to their emergency number 122 was responded to in the negative.

The witness who refused to be quoted said the person who

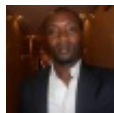
answered the call said there was no fuel in their vehicle and there was nothing he could do about the situation.

Commenting on the accident, Police Public Relations Officer in Cross River State, Hogan Bassey confirmed that nine people died as a result of the accident.

“Your facts are true. **Nine persons died**”, the PPRO said on phone.

Attempts to get the comments of the FRSC did not yield results as its Public Relations Officer, Festus Ndimele, could not be reached.

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