

15 Die In Auto Crash On Asaba-Benin Express Way

BY KOLA EKE-OGIUGO, Asaba

At least fifteen persons, including the driver of Delta State-owned Mass Transit bus in the early hour yesterday died in a fatal motor accident that occurred on the Issele-Uku-Ubulu-Okiti axis of Benin/Asaba highway.

The only surviving passenger in the 16-seater bus is in critical condition in mother and child hospital, Ubulu-Okiti, while other corpses were deposited at Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Asaba mortuary.

Eyewitness said that the bus rammed into a broken down trailer vehicle which was being towed out of a ditch, but the sector Commander of Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in the state, Mr Kumven Rindom, who confirmed the accident and the death of the 15 passengers, blamed the accident on over-speeding and inability of the driver to observe the prevailing situation of the road occasioned by lack of road sign to indicate danger.

According to him, "I am just coming from the scene and I can tell you that the accident was caused by over-speeding on the part of the bus driver and the inability of the trailer

owner who was towing a faulty trailer, to put danger signs on the road for other road users to know what was going on".

What happened was, there was a broken-down trailer on a hilly point of the road, a vehicle was trying to tow it, while the Delta State Mass Transit bus was coming from Asaba going towards Agbor on top speed. As the driver saw the trailer, he tried to stop but the speed was very high, so he swerved to the stationary trailer carrying rods, and because, the driver was on top speed it had fatal result on the occupants of the bus, that was how 14 died on the spot, two were rushed to hospital but one gave up the ghost, while the remaining one is in critical condition," he said.

Meanwhile, Okpanam traditional institution in the state at the weekend justified its reasons for banning the popular and entertaining 'Ipempe' Masquerade in the community, attributing its decision largely on the infiltration of cult activities into the once cherished masquerade activities.

The traditional ruler of Okpanam, HRM Obi Michael Mbanefo Ogbolu restated the ban yesterday.

**At Last Niger LG
Election Holds Nov 7**

**DELSU Bans End Of Session
Celebration With Dangerous Objects**