

# Eight dead in Akure-Owo road crash

**E**IGHT persons were reportedly killed in a multiple road accident, in Ire-Akari Village on Akure-Owo expressway, Ondo State yesterday.

The carnage occurred barely a week after a trailer skidded off the road on Akure-Ondo road and killed a family of four who were trekking to their farm.

'The Nation' gathered that 14 other passengers are on a danger list at the State Specialist Hospital, Akure.

The accident involved a Toyota Liteace Bus loaded

From Damisi Ojo, Akure

with yam tubers and another Lagos-based popular Transport company (Cross Country).

Eye witness, however blamed the accident on the driver of a Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) vehicle RS356AO1 (1128) who in a bid to forcefully overtake the Toyota bus, had a head-on collision with the Cross Country bus.

The road marshals had few minutes before the accident stopped the driver at a check-point where he allegedly volunteered N200 to the FRSC men on patrol,

but they insisted on N1000.

The driver had no option other than to escape from the check-point leading to the carnage.

The FRSC officials overtook wrongly on the left side and thereafter collided with the on-coming bus with Serial Number 32.

At the State Specialist Hospital Akure, the General Manager, Operations of the Cross Country Transport Company, Omooba Adekunle Odunewu indicted the FRSC men, regretting that three persons including the company's driver died on the spot.

Another five persons lost

their lives inside the Toyota bus.

He threatened that the company will sue the FRSC officials who reportedly escaped into the bush immediately after the incident.

The Chief Medical Director of the hospital, Dr. Rotimi Fasidi disclosed that six bodies had been brought to the hospital with 14 other injured passengers who are presently on danger list without having any identity to trace their relatives.

He said: "We have been magnanimous enough here to treat the victims of this particular road carnage with our own drugs because we real-

ized that they have no relatives".

Dr. Fasidi said the drugs are from the Emergency Unit and were purchased by the state government for instant treatment of victims.

Appealing to the relatives of the victims to come and take care of them, he added that any corpse that was not claimed within the period of 24 hours would be embalmed to prevent spread of epidemics.

The state Sector Commander of FRSC, Mr. Ahmed Hassan was not available for comments when 'The Nation' visited his office.