

25 killed in Ondo road crash

• 22 victims are
members of a family

From Babatope Okeowo, Akure

THE maiden convocation of the Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko (AAUA) in Ondo State ended in tragedy for a family on Saturday.

In all, 25 people were killed in a road crash on Iwaro-Oka/Okemaria road in Akoko South West Area of the state.

Most of the victims were returning from Akungba-Akoko, venue of the maiden convocation of the AAUA.

Twenty-two people, including two infants were among the victims that perished in the accident that claimed 25 lives on the road that leads to Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory.

The accident occurred shortly after a fuel tanker driver crashed into some houses, killing some residents and burn-

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1

ing properties worth millions of naira in the same area.

All the passengers of one of the crashed vehicles were members of the Ogunrinde family in Ibaka-Oka, who were coming from AAUA where one of their sons was graduating.

The Ogunrindes, including two women, daughters, sons and relatives, were the only passengers in the bus.

The accident, according to an eye witness, Mr Ayo Ologunola, occurred at a bend between Iwaro-Oka and Oke-Maria, a few kilometres from Akungba.

Ologunola said the accident occurred when a trailer with registration number, Kano RG 438 NCR

veered off his lane and crashed into the commuter bus conveying the 22 passengers, including two six-month old babies.

The bus, marked Lagos NW 405 EKY, was believed to have been hired by Mr Ogunrinde whose son was not in the vehicle when the accident occurred.

The graduand, who was in festive mood with his friends, fainted when the news of the incident was broken on the campus. He was taken to a hospital where he is receiving treatment for shock.

The Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission, (FRSC) Ondo State, Mr. Hassan Ahmed Kogari, said: "The accident which happened at Oka

claimed 22 lives. Two vehicles were involved and it happened at that dangerous bend"

He urged motorists to always obey traffic rules, saying this will assist in reducing carnage on our roads. The sector Commander also said that motorists should ensure that their vehicles are roadworthy at all times.

The bodies of the victims are at a mortuary in Ikare. Some were buried on Sunday at Ibaka-Oka.

OUR ERROR

Zenon Petroleum and Gas Limited paid N2.3 billion for Stallion House and not Luzon Oil as reported last Thursday, February 22. The error is regretted.

Editor