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Family of five killed in Delta road crash

6/6/2007

A family of five lost their lives on the busy Ughelli-Patani end in Delta State of the Warri-Port Harcourt expressway on Monday afternoon.

The victims include a couple, as well as two brothers, who reportedly died at the spot.

Eyewitness told *The Nation* that one of the victims, a popular furniture merchant simply identify as Maxwell in the oil city of Warri, was the Managing Director of Max Furnishing Company.

Sources within the Igbo community in Warri said the unfortunate family members were on their way from a weekend social engagement in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital, when the accident occurred.

"The Mercedes Benz E-class in which they were riding was involved in a head-on collision with another vehicle travelling to Port Harcourt; a few kilometers away from Patani Local Government Area yesterday", our source stated.

The fate of the travellers were later disclosed to their kinsmen in Warri on Monday evening, after their remains had been deposited at the morgue of a government hospital in Ughelli.

A good Samaritan, who took the dead man's mobile phone reportedly placed telephone calls to names he saw on the phonebook until he was able to get someone to break the sad news to.

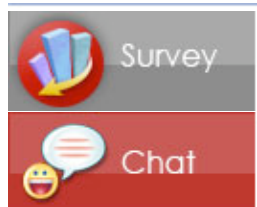
"When I first got the call, I shouted the caller down and hung up the line because I taught it was one of those mobile phone fraudsters who call people with the intention of defrauding them. But the man kept on calling me until I gave him my attention. I later found out that he had also called some persons in Lagos, who apparently asked him to get in touch with somebody in Warri because Warri is closer to the scene of the accident", our source added.

The Police Public Relations Office, Delta Command, Ms Olabisi Okuwobi, could not be reached for comment when *The Nation* called her cell-phone yesterday afternoon.

A source at the Ughelli Area Command, who craved anonymity, confirmed the report, adding that the victims' remains were deposited at the Ughelli General Hospital morgue.

The Igbo community in the state was thrown into mourning when the news of their kinsmen, his wife and brothers filtered in. The incident came barely a month after the former Chairman of Ndigbo Traders Association (NTA), Joseph Izuwanne, died after a mysterious illness.

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**Exchange Rates (NGN)**

US Dollar	126.01
Pound Sterling	233.9502
Euro	157.9283
Riyal	33.5919
WAUA	185.3941
Yen	1.0529
CFA	0.2342

As at 11/10/2006

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