

Five killed in Ekiti road crash

From Odunayo Ogunmola, Ado-Ekiti

FIVE people were yesterday killed in a road crash that occurred at a road block mounted by policemen at the Itawure junction, near Efon-Alaye.

The accident involved a commercial 18-seater bus fully loaded with passengers believed to be coming from Ado-Ekiti and two private cars.

The Nation gathered that the crash occurred after the three vehicles were involved in a head-on collision as they were trying to avoid the roadblock.

Temperers rose with the arrival of the Deputy Governor, Dr Sikiru Lawal, at the scene, who attempted to make his way from the place which angered members of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW). They said Lawal ought to have assisted in rescue effort.

The NURTW members became violent and forced the deputy governor's convoy to make a detour from the trip he wanted to make, as they were hurling stones and other missiles at the convoy.

The mob also chased police-men believed to have mounted the roadblock, accusing them of being responsible for the loss of lives. The melee caused a huge traffic snarl on the Ado-Aramoko-Ilesa highway.

Bodies of the victims were later conveyed to an undisclosed hospital amidst wailing by travellers who were held up by the accident.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr Celestine Gabriel, an Assistant Superintendent, was not available for comments as of press time.