

12 feared killed in Edo governor's convoy crash

NO fewer than 12 people were killed yesterday on the Abaji-Abuja road in an accident involving the convoy of Edo State governor.

Prof. Oserheimen Osunbor was not in the convoy, it was learnt.

The accident occurred barely 36 hours after the launch of the Road Transport Standardization Safety Scheme (RTSS) by Vice President Goodluck Jonathan.

The accident involved several vehicles. Abaji is in the Abaji District of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), the entry point of Abuja.

The Corps Marshal and Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Osita Chidoka, said the governor's convoy ran into "a faulty stationary trailer (articulated vehicle) that blocked the road".

Jonas Agwu, the FCT Sector Commander, described the accident "fatal" but could not also confirm the casualty figure or identities of those involved.

Government sources

From Dele Anofi, Abuja
and John Mayaki, Benin

said none of the people in the Governor's advance team was killed in the road mishap.

The Press Secretary to the Governor, Mr. Daniel Aigbavboa, issued a release, stating: "Following speculations in some quarters that the Governor of Edo State, His Excellency, Senator (Prof.) Oserheimen Osunbor was involved in an accident, it has become necessary to state the facts of the matter.

"A Toyota bus ran into one of the vehicles on the convoy of the Governor around Abaji while on their way to Abuja on Wednesday, 12th September, 2007.

"Information reaching us indicates that some of the passengers in the bus died in the accident while the driver of the state government vehicle sustained some injuries. Let it be known that the Governor was not on the convoy at the time of the accident. Government sympathises with the families of those who lost their lives."