

Accident claims three students, others injured

From Ernest Nwokolo, Abeokuta

THREE students of Abeokuta Grammar School, were feared dead and few others injured in an auto accident yesterday while returning from a celebration in Agbowo Ikosi, Ogun State.

The Nation gathered the unfortunate students lost their lives when the 18-seater bus conveying them back to Abeokuta at the close of a party plunged into a roadside ditch by 5: 05pm and burst into flames along Abeokuta - Sagamu Expressway.

A sympathizer, who claimed to have participated in the rescue operation, said horror-stricken onlookers couldn't help much as the bus exploded into a ball of fire while the rescue operation was going on, forcing many to flee.

The accident it was further learnt, followed a burst tyre from the vehicle leading to lost of control by the driver and the state Governor, Gbenga Daniel, who chanced to be leaving Abeokuta in a convoy at the time had to stop to attend to the injured while an ambulance in the convoy conveyed the injured to the hospital.

Also the vehicle of the Gateway Response Squad, marked PF9142, was sighted evacuating the remains of the dead to the mortuary even as the officials of the Federal Road Safety Commission and the State Fire Service laboured to contain the flame from the burning accident bus, a witness told *The Nation*. "When have been warning the driver that he was over speeding. We we moved beyond Kobape, we suddenly heard a big noise; the vehicle had a tyre burst and the next thing we knew was that we found ourselves in the bush and the bus caught fire," the witness said.