

Truck crushes poly student to death

BY OLUWATOYIN MALIK

EMOTIONS ran high on Monday at Iree in Osun State, when a 22-year-old female student of Osun State Polytechnic, Iree, one Babaranti Funmilayo Esther died in a road crash after she was knocked down by a truck driver when his vehicle's brake failed.

Information gathered by the *Nigerian Tribune* revealed that the Mack truck with registration number DTN 267 XA, belonging to Mathose Nigeria Road Construction Company Limited, driven by one Adeola Babalola (50), was loaded with gravel and was coming from Ada road, heading for Ila-Orangun, when the incident occurred at about 1.30p.m.

The driver reportedly lost control while descending a slope at poly junction, Iree, a situation which made passersby to run for their

lives when they were alerted by an *okada* rider.

Unfortunately, in an effort to also escape, the deceased was said to have been hit by the truck, resulting in her being wedged between an electric pole and a commercial *Mitsubishi* car with registration number XW 325 MUS, driven by one Sule Ajayi.

The truck did not stop until it ran into a shop and destroyed it alongside goods worth hundreds of thousands of naira and an electric transformer was

not spared, *Nigerian Tribune* learnt.

A team of policemen was said to have moved to the scene immediately the information got to them and Esther was quickly rushed to a hospital in Iree for medical attention, but was confirmed dead on arrival.

The drivers of the vehicles were reported to have been arrested and their vehicles impounded for Vehicle Inspection Office's scrutiny.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Folasade Odoro, a Deputy Superin-

tendent of Police, confirmed the incident when contacted, saying that the Commissioner of Police, Dorothy Gimba, had ordered an immediate investigation and arraignment of the drivers in court, while enjoying the colleagues of the deceased to remain calm.

The Media Relations Officer of Osun State Polytechnic, Mr Tope Abiola also described the incident as unfortunate, praying that God would give the family the fortitude to bear the loss.

Traditional ruler's driver arrested for child theft

I'm a victim of circumstance —Suspect

ALPHONSUS AGBOR-ASABA

AS communal crises in Abavo, Ika South Local Government Area of Delta State nosedived into a worrying dimension, a driver has been arrested for allegedly stealing a nine-month-old baby.

The suspect, Ebose Osakpanwan, 32-year-old and driver to the Obi of Abavo was arrested by the youth of the town, where several houses have been burnt, but the suspect, while being paraded in Asaba wept sorely, claiming that he was a victim of circumstance.

According to him, the mother of the child, Blessing

beaten by the youth, she intervened and pleaded that she knew him so well.

All efforts made by reporters to get across to the woman on Wednesday proved abortive.

The acting state Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Charles Muka, disclosed that the Blessing Igbinowamahia had raised

Wage: 'No going back on