

7 new arrivals from Spain, driver die in auto crash on Lagos/Ibadan highway

BY ADEWALE OSHODI

EIGHT passengers in a Toyota Hiace (Hummer) bus belonging to Iyare Motors lost their lives on Tuesday, while two others were injured in an auto crash which occurred on Lagos/Ibadan highway at about 8:30a.m.

Nigerian Tribune learnt that the occupants of the bus, with registration number BEN 313 YX, arrived in Nigeria from Spain early in the morning, and were on their way to Benin-City, Edo State, when the accident occurred.

The accident was reported to have occurred two kilometres after popular Danco filling station on the highway.

It was further gathered that the bus rammed into a Mack truck, with registration number MUS 730 XN, at the back while the driver was trying to get back to

his lane after what the Ogun State Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Corps (TRACE) described as "wrongful overtaking and speeding by the driver of the Hummer bus."

According to the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of TRACE, Mr Babatunde Akinbiyi, seven of the passengers, five males and two females, died immediately the accident occurred, while another female passenger died at the Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital (OOUTH), Sagamu, where the survivors and the remains of the dead were taken to.

"The bus driver was on top speed while trying to overtake the truck, and when it dawned on him that he couldn't control the vehicle again, he rammed into the truck from behind, thus resulting in the casualties, including the driver, who was mangled beyond

recognition," Akinbiyi said. **Nigerian Tribune** further learnt that the Hummer bus had been chartered by the passengers who had arrived the country from Spain to get to Benin-City for an en-

gagement.

From a video recording of the accident in possession of the **Nigerian Tribune**, the efforts of TRACE officials and sympathisers could be seen as they tried to extricate the

bus from the truck's rear where it was stuck, still with the dead passengers inside.

Some of the deceased passengers had their skulls broken and bodies mangled.

Akinbiyi disclosed that the truck had been taken to the Federal Road Safety Corps yard in Sagamu while the bus was taken to Sagamu Area Command of the Ogun State Police Command.

