

Metro

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Traditional ruler passes on in Ekiti four days after 15 residents died in accident

FOUR days after losing 15 residents in a trailer accident in Iworoko Ekiti in Ekiti State, the town's traditional ruler, Oba Oluwafemi Adejana, has joined his ancestors.

According to the *News*

Agency of Nigeria (NAN), the king died in the early hours of Wednesday.

Oba Adejana, who was in his 80s, reportedly died in an undisclosed hospital in Ado Ekiti, the state capital.

He welcomed the state Deputy Governor, Chief Bisi

Egbeyemi, on Sunday during a condolence visit to his palace.

The Alawaroko Obaship title, which he held, was ranked by the state government as a second class stool in traditional hierarchical order.

The fatal accident involved an articulated vehicle carrying branded campaign rice for a serving senator in Ondo State.

Fifteen persons were confirmed dead, including a yet-to-be-identified member of the National Youth

Service Corps (NYSC).

No fewer than four houses and adjoining lock-up shops were also destroyed, as the vehicle swerved off the road and crashed into a busy night market, throwing the entire community into mourning.

The driver of the ill-fated vehicle was said to have lost control following brake failure which resulted in the tragedy.

When *NAN* visited the town at about 3:00p.m on Wednesday, it was observed that the traditional rites had already begun with the cutting of sacred trees and blocking of the dual carriage Ado-Iworoko-Ifaki highway.

Some of the youths and other age groups in the town described the passage of the traditional ruler as a double tragedy.

Others trooped to the streets, killing house pets

like goats and sheep sighted roaming the streets, as tradition demanded.

One of the prominent indigenes of the town, who craved anonymity, said Saturday's accident might have affected the health of the old traditional ruler.

"Our traditional ruler was rushed to the hospital after the accident, apparently as a result of the shock.

"Though he had been battling with health issues, that incident really made the situation worse for him.

"When the news of the deaths filtered into town, he was said to have been devastated and the family had to rush him to the hospital early on Sunday.

"He was said to have improved on Monday before there was a relapse on Tuesday, resulting in his death on Wednesday," the source said.

4 injured as articulated vehicles collide on Enugu-Onitsha highway

