

# 24 die on the way from convocation

**Femi Makinde, Akure**

**N**O fewer than 24 persons were killed in an auto crash on Akungba-Oka Road in Akoko South West Area of Ondo State on Saturday.

Our correspondent learnt that most of the victims were returning from the maiden convocation ceremony of the Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko.

Twenty-two persons among the victims were believed to be members of one

Pa Ogunrinde family. Ogunrinde, his two wives, some of his sons, daughters and relatives were said to be the only passengers in the bus.

The accident, according to eyewitness, occurred at a dangerous bend between Iwaro Oka and Oke Maria, a few kilometres from Akungba.

An eyewitness, Mr. Ayo Ologunola, told our correspondent that the accident occurred when a truck with registration Kano RG 438 NCR had a break failure and lost control. Two six month-old

babies also died in the crash.

The bus, which was marked Lagos NW 405 EKY, was believed to have been hired by Pa Ogunrinde to celebrate the convocation of his son.

The graduand reportedly stayed back at the school to celebrate with his friends while the family and the invited relatives embarked on the ill-fated journey back home.

Sources at the AAU told our correspondent that the young Ogunrinde, who was in

celebration mood, collapsed and fainted when the news of the accident filtered into the campus.

He was said to have been taken to a hospital where he was still receiving treatment for shock.

The Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Ondo State, Mr. Hassan Ahmed, confirmed the accident to our correspondent on the telephone on Sunday.

Ahmed said, "The accident which happened at Oka

claimed 22 lives. Two vehicles were involved and it happened at that dangerous bend."

He appealed to motorists to always obey traffick rules, saying that would reduce carnage on our roads.

The sector commander added that motorists should ensure that their vehicles were roadworthy at all times.

He warned that the FRSC would not hesitate to impound any vehicle who broke traffick laws.

Ahmed warned timber lorry drivers, who he said were in habit of driving their lorries without good break system and lighting that the command would impound their vehicles.

