

Two students, eight others die in auto accidents

Niyi Odebo and
Femi Makinde

TWO students of the Olabisi Onabanjo University on Tuesday night lost their lives when a bus conveying them and their colleagues plunged into a river along Ilisan-Ago-Iwoye

Road.

Eight people also died in another auto accident on Akure-Owo Road on Tuesday.

No fewer than 14 students of the institution were injured in the accident that involved a fully loaded 18-seater bus with registration

number Ogun XA 562 SRA.

As at the time of filing this report, officers of the Ogun State Emergency Agency and local divers were still combing the river for two other occupants of the bus.

Eyewitnesses stated that the bus, which left Oshodi, Lagos, at about 5 p.m. on

Tuesday, had over sped.

The eyewitnesses further said the Isuzu bus, on getting to a narrow bridge near the permanent campus of the university, somersaulted thrice, after which it emptied its passengers into the overflowing river.

Two students, a male and

a female, died instantly.

When our correspondent visited the scene of the accident, local divers had brought out the 14 injured persons from the river.

The corpses of the deceased, which were also retrieved, have been deposited at the mortuary of the Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital, Sagamu.

The injured persons are also being treated at the hospital.

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Mr. Femi Awoyale and his counterpart at the OOU, Mr. Niyi Oduwole, confirmed the accident.

The State Governor, Otunba Gbenga Daniel, speaking through his Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Wale Adedayo, said the accident was saddening.

Meanwhile, OOU has declared Wednesday and Thursday as lecture-free days to mourn the deceased students.

In a related development, eight people have died, while 11 have been injured along Akure-Owo Road, in a ghastly automobile accident in Ondo State.

The accident occurred when a luxury bus and an 18-seater commuter bus had a head-on collision.

The accident, according to an eyewitness, occurred on the outskirts of Owo Town, at about 4 p.m. on Tuesday.

This caused a traffic snarl on the ever-busy road, as motorists spent some time waiting for the corpses and wreckage of the bus to be cleared off the road.

Our correspondent gathered that the driver of the 18-seater bus caused the accident.

The eyewitness who pleaded anonymity said, "The driver of the small bus was overtaking when the accident occurred. He was driving recklessly and this was what caused the carnage."

The Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Adeniran Aremu, confirmed the accident to our correspondent on the telephone, but he could not ascertain the number of casualties.

However, the Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Mr. Ahmed Hassan, said eight persons died and 11 were injured in the crash.

He added that the corpses and the injured victims had since been taken to the Federal Medical Centre, Owo.



•L-R: Director-General, SMEDAN, Mrs. Modupe Adelaja; Assistant Director-General, The Nigerian Stock Exchange, Mr. Lance Musa Ekakaria; General Manager/Head, Emerging Market/Special Projects, NSE, Mr. Uzoma Onyekuru; and Chairman, Mountain Investment and Securities Limited, Alhaji Rasaki Oladejo, at a stakeholders' workshop on the New Investment Window: Third-tier Market, for Small and Medium Enterprises, in Lagos ... on Tuesday. Photo: Segun Bakare.

Ogun election tribunal dismisses

Niyi Odebo,
Abeokuta

Daniel's application

THE Ogun State Election Petitions Tribunal sitting in Abeokuta, the state capital, on Wednesday rejected an application filed by the state Governor, Otunba Gbenga Daniel.

The tribunal in a ruling read by its Chairman, Justice Haruna Tsamani, said it had no power to order an investigation into the discrepancies in a motion for petition amendment filed by the All Nigeria Peoples Party governorship candidate, Senator Ibikunle Amosun.

Daniel, in an application filed by his counsel, Prof. Taiwo Osinpiton, had urged the tribunal to order an enquiry into the contradiction in the dates on Amosun's motion and the receipt issued to the governorship candidate after filing the amendment.

Osinpiton stated that while the date on the filed amendment was May 8, 2007, May 21, 2007 was written on the receipt issued to the ANPP candidate.

Basing his application on Order 19 Rule 2 of the Federal High Court, the counsel to the governor called for oral evidence to resolve the contradiction.

Counsel to the Independent National Electoral Commission, Mr. Leye Delano (SAN), supported the application.

He stated that enquiry

would determine whether the Amosun's amendment was filed within the time stipulated by the 2006 Electoral Act.

The leading counsel to Amosun, Chief Adeniyi Akintola (SAN), argued that it was not the duty of the tribunal to order such an investigation.

Akintola said, "We are opposing the motion, but not opposed to an enquiry. What we are saying is that the enquiry must be at the proper place. It is not the work of the tribunal. "We

have written to the President of the Court of Appeal on things that we want enquiry into. That is where they should go."

In its ruling, the tribunal stated that the enquiry being sought by Daniel would hinder the speedy trial of the election petition.

It said, "It is not necessary for the tribunal to venture into what the police are already looking into," adding that what was important was the date on the application for amendment of the

petition.

The tribunal on Wednesday heard a motion for petition amendment filed by Amosun. The motion was supported by three different affidavits.

The counsel to Daniel, however, urged the tribunal to dismiss Amosun's application for amendment, saying that it was not filed within the 30 days that the results of the election were declared.

The tribunal adjourned ruling on the motion for amendment filed by Amosun till Monday, July 16.

Workers' strike paralyses Ekiti State

Olamilekan Lartey,
Ado-Ekiti

GOVERNMENT activities were paralysed in Ekiti State on Wednesday as public servants made good their threat to go on an indefinite strike.

The state secretariat and the office of the deputy governor were deserted, while teachers advised their students to return home.

Patients were also ignored at the State Specialist Hospital in Ado Ekiti, the state capital.

At the imposing governor's office in the centre of the town, Labour leaders gathered to sing solidarity songs after they had chased workers out of offices lo-

cated in different parts of the state.

State Chairman of the Nigerian Labour Congress, Mr. Joseph Arogundade, said the state government had taken for granted the understanding and maturity of the workers.

Arogundade said the workers and government had been unable reach an agreement on the dispute over the 15 per cent salary rise.

According to him, the announcement that government had agreed to pay the salary increase was "a rouse to cajole workers to return to work."

Speaking right in front of the governor's office, Arogundade said workers would stay away from work indefinitely, despite

the government's attempt to break the strike.

"When there is a dispute between government and Labour, there must be an agreement. It has to be signed, followed by a circular and a table of figures showing how much each category of staff will earn," he said.

Senior Special Adviser to the Governor on Communication, Mr. Moses Jolayemi, said the action of the workers was "beyond the ordinary."

Jolayemi said the Segun Oni administration had, on Tuesday night, announced its agreement to pay the 15 per cent salary rise across board, and not on the basic salaries of workers as originally demanded by Labour.