

# PUNCH driver, pastor die in road accident

**Fidelis Soriwei, Benin**

A contract driver with the PUNCH Nigeria Limited, Mr. Kingsley Ossai and a Pastor of a Warri-based church identified as Oladoja Emmanuel, were on Sunday killed in a motor accident, which occurred at Ugbogui, on the Benin Ore Road.

It was learnt that the driver of the van, a Mitsubishi Space Wagon with registration number BP 76 AKD, conveying the supply of the *SUNDAY PUNCH*

newspapers to some of the states of the South-South and South-East ran into the 911 truck, with number BF 561 BEN, at a police checkpoint on the express way in the early hours of the morning.

Our correspondent gathered that some riot policemen at the Ugbogui police checkpoint close to the Okada junction had stopped the truck when the driver rammed into it from behind.

It was learnt that the truck did not have any functional rear light and reflective signs to alert any

vehicle coming from behind.

The Benin zonal commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Alhaji Zakari Nda, who confirmed this to our correspondent on the phone, said that about four persons were involved in the accident, which culminated in the death of the two people in the car.

The corpses of the late driver and pastor had been deposited at a mortuary in Ore, Ondo State, while the injured were taken to an undisclosed hospital.

As at Monday, the men of the Ofosu Police Division had towed the truck loaded with plywood to the station while the newspaper van was still at the scene of the accident.

Although, some of the policemen at the checkpoint said that they did not stop the driver of the truck in the middle of the road and attributed the accident to a collision, a claim contradicted that of the driver, said to be in police custody.