

# Wailing as 21 passengers die in Ondo accident

Sunday Aborisade,  
Akure

**H**UNDREDS of residents of Akure burst into uncontrollable tears on Wednesday when 21 passengers, comprising five men, eight women and seven children were being deposited in the mortuary of the Ondo State Specialist Hospital, in the heart of the town.

They died in a fatal auto accident that occurred at Ilaramokin town end of the Ilesha-Akure Expressway.

The deceased included two pregnant women, seven underaged children and their parents who were going to Benue State from Lagos.

The accident, according to eye witnesses, occurred around 6.30am involving a DAF Truck with number plate LAGOS XU 606 JJJ, going towards Lagos and a Mazda commercial bus with number plate XV 315 FST.

The commercial bus had the inscription Obadigbo Local Government Area of Benue State on it.

It was gathered that the accident occurred when the truck driver was trying to avoid a deep pothole on the highway; lost the control of the vehicle in the process and hit the bus.

Four people survived the accident while three others were on danger list in the State Specialist Hospital in Akure.

One of the survivors, however, lost his wife and a child in the accident.

Our correspondent learnt at the scene of the accident in Ilaramokin, that men of the Nigeria Police responded swiftly and evacuated the victims from the wreckage.

Men of the Federal Road

Safety Commission were also sighted removing mangled bodies from the bus into the patrol vans.

No fewer than 10 others who were critically injured were on admission in the same hospital. One of the injured, according to sources died immediately after he was treated in the hospital.

The accident and emergencies unit of the hospital was also besieged by people who were curious about the identities of the victims.

The Sector Commander FRSC, Ondo State, Mr. Bekinbo Meheux, said going by the number of the victims, the bus was overloaded as it showed that it was conveying 28 passengers instead of 15.

## Abacha's Indian associate to refund N6.73bn loot

**A**MAN, who laundered money in a business deal with ex-Nigerian dictator, late Gen. Sani Abacha, has been ordered to repay £26.5m (N6.73bn) by Jersey's Royal Court.

Raj Arjandas Bhojwani, from India, laundered £28m through the Jersey branch of the Bank of India, the *British Broadcasting Corporation* reports.

He was jailed in 2010 for eight years, but in February it was cut to six years for Bhojwani's good character.

The money was laundered in a business deal with the late Nigerian military dictator, who died on June 8, 1998.

The Royal Court ordered the confiscation of £26.5m and for Bhojwani to contribute to the prosecution costs.

He said the accident might have been avoided if the drivers of the two vehicles had been patient.

Mehuex advised motorists to be more careful when driving particularly at bad spots and avoid speeding.

The accident coincided with a workshop organised by the FRSC for drivers of the Federal University of Technology, Akure, where the commander highlighted some causes of road crashes.

The Public Relations Officer of the Ondo State Police Command, Mr. Aremu Adeniran, said the driver of the truck was at fault because he swerved and ran into the commercial bus.

A statement released by the Royal Court said it represented the end of a long investigation into serious money laundering in Jersey.

Attorney General Timothy Le Cocq, said, "This is not the first time the attorney general has brought a successful prosecution for money laundering and we hope that it will send out a clear message that Jersey will deal very seriously with such offences."

The case began following an investigation into the activities of the late Abacha.

The sum of \$170m connected with the Abacha investigation had already been returned to Nigeria from Jersey and it is expected some of the confiscated money from Bhojwani will also be returned.