

FEATURED

Three school principals, others die in auto crash

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Scene of an accident. Photo: gongnews.net

Femi Atoyebi and Afeez Hanafi

Members of the National Union of Teachers in Oyo State are mourning the death of three principals and an accountant in the state public secondary schools in a road crash.

No fewer than seven persons, who suffered varying degrees of injury, have also been hospitalised.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the victims were involved in the accident along the Oyo-Ogbomosho road around 5pm on Wednesday.

into a bus they were in.

It was learnt that the tanker driver veered onto the bus lane in an attempt to dodge a pothole but crashed into the bus.

The three principals, an account clerk, and the bus driver, whose identities had yet to be ascertained, died on the spot, while seven others who were injured, were rushed to the Bowen University Teaching Hospital, Ogbomoso.

“Five persons, including three principals, an account clerk in one of the public secondary schools and the bus driver, died in the accident.

“I learnt that one of the deceased principals, Mr. Ogunremi, was supposed to retire in a few weeks’ time. They were returning from a workshop in Oyo town,” a source said.

The Chairman of the Nigeria Labour Congress in the state, Waheed Olojede, who is also the secretary of the state chapter of the National Union of Teachers, confirmed the fatalities, adding that five others were critically injured.

He blamed the Oyo State Ministry of Education for directing 340 participants from schools in Ogbomoso to travel to Oyo town for the workshop, saying a centre should have been created in Ogbomoso considering the large number.

He said, “The entire labour movement under the aegis of the Nigeria Labour Congress, Trade Union Congress and Joint Negotiating Council, led by Emmanuel Ogundiran and me, have visited the injured victims and families of the deceased.

“The NUT in the state received the news with rude shock. The NUT and labour movement are worried and disturbed about the wrong decision taken by the education ministry to compel 340 participants from 85 secondary schools in Ogbomoso to attend a workshop in Oyo town when simple reason and logic is supposed to have guided the ministry’s decision to create a centre in Ogbomoso for the workshop while the facilitators move there.

workshops.”

The Oyo State Commissioner for Education, Science and Technology, Prof Adeniyi Olowofela, told one of our correspondents that he led a delegation to the Bowen University Teaching Hospital and families of the victims as directed by the state Governor, Abiola Ajimobi.

“We are just coming back from Ogbomoso. The governor directed that I should lead a delegation that included the chairman of the state Teaching Service Commission to commiserate with the families of the victims. The state government regrets this unfortunate incident and will defray the hospital bills of those who are still receiving treatment,” he said.

The Oyo State Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps, Cecilia Alao, confirmed the crash to one of our correspondents in a text message.

She stated that the accident resulted from dangerous overtaking and urged motorists to be safety conscious and comply with traffic regulations at all times.

Alao said, “A fatal road crash occurred on Wednesday, January 24, 2018 along Oyo-Ogbomosho Road at 4.30pm. Two vehicles – Mazda E2000 bus, with number plate, XE 455 PFA, and an Iveco tanker with number plate, LKJ 790 XU, were involved in the crash which occurred as a result of dangerous overtaking.

“A total of 15 passengers (11 male adults and four female adults) were involved in the crash, while three male adults lost their lives. A total of 12 passengers (eight male adults and four female adults) were rescued alive and taken to the Bowen University Teaching Hospital for medical attention.”

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Contact: editor@punchng.com