

# Three pastors die in crash as driver sleeps off

DAUD OLATUNJI

**T**HREE pastors lost their lives on Saturday in an accident after their driver lost control on the Abeokuta-Sagamu Expressway, Ogun State.

Two others sustained injuries, while three

were rescued unhurt.

The spokesman for the Ogun State Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Corps, Babatunde Akinbiyi, who confirmed the tragedy, said it occurred around 9.44am near Day Waterman College, a private school at Kobape, inbound Abeokuta.

He noted that the crash involved a black Rio car with the number plate, AKD 827 DV, and a white Sino truck, with the number plate, WDL 466 XA.

According to Akinbiyi, the cause of the crash was sleeping behind the wheel, coupled with speeding and loss of control on the part of the Rio car driver.

The TRACE spokesman, while quoting eyewitnesses, said the Rio car was occupied by a driver, a passenger and "three men of God" who were dressed in white robes.

He noted that the car was coming from Oke-Iragbiji in Osun State, where the clerics had held prayers and a deliverance service.

"Suddenly, the driver lost control due to speeding as he was also dozing behind the wheels. He ran over the median, hit and uprooted the streetlight on the median before having a head-on collision with the Sino truck, which was loaded with cement and was outbound Abeokuta.

"Instantly, the three men of God died due to the impact of the collision, while the driver and the passenger in front were injured," he added.

While commiserating with the victims' families, Akinbiyi warned motorists to stop speeding and take adequate rest, at least six to seven hours, before setting out on a journey.

## Arrested for stabbing 12-year-old girl

can see somebody outside, but the person outside cannot see the person inside.

"The woman stood there with her water, but she did not tell my sister not to come with the pots she was carrying to avoid running into her.

"So, my sister unknowingly entered with the pots and ran into the woman and both of them fell.

"The woman started beating my sister. Other neighbours begged her that it was a mistake, but the woman refused."

Olucho said Abigail ordered her sister to sweep the spilled water.

"So, she went back to fetch another water, while my sister continued to wash the dishes and later took a broom to sweep the water.

"But as my sister was about to sweep the water out, she (Abigail) went inside and came out with a knife, which she used to stab my sister.

"The head of the knife broke and the knife stayed in my sister's body. We immediately reported to

the police; the woman entered her room and fled through the back door.

"But some neighbours caught her and handed her over to the police. My sister is in the hospital now."

The spokesperson for the state police command, Grace Iringe-Koko, confirmed the incident, adding that doctors had removed the knife from the victim's body.

She stated, "The woman has been arrested and is in our custody. She will face the wrath of the law for her actions.

"The girl is responding to treatment and investigation is ongoing."

Meanwhile, a group, Centre for Basic Rights Protection and Accountability, has called for a thorough investigation into the incident.

The National Coordinator of the group, Prince Wiwo, urged the police to arraign the suspect immediately if found culpable.