

Trailer runs into shops in Auchi, kill 6, injure 16

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(2)

At least, six persons were yesterday killed and 16 others injured when a lorry conveying cement lost control and rammed into several stores in Auchi, Etsako West Local Government Area of Edo State.

According to a source who gave his name as Mr. Sani Aliu, the ill-fated vehicle which was coming from the popular garage area of the polytechnic town was descending the hill when it suddenly had a brake failure and the driver lost control in the process.

He said that he was in the company of friends at the nearby Inu Umoru Street when he heard the loud noise.

Mr. Aliu said he was speechless when he got to the scene of the accident which is popularly referred to as Igbo Shade, stressing that the vehicle smashed into many shops, killing several persons and destroy-

ing goods worth several millions of naira.

Sani said that sympathisers have been making frantic efforts to pull out corpses from the rubbles of the collapsed buildings and under the chassis of the vehicle.

He said several persons who were injured in the accident have been rushed to different hospitals in Auchi and neighboring Jattu for treatment.

"Auchi is in deep mourning. Early this morning, the driver of a trailer conveying cement lost control as a result of brake failure and crashed into the popular Igbo Shade killing several persons which included traders and buyers.

"Over 20 persons are feared dead and several are still trapped in the collapsed buildings. The sight is gruesome. My heart bleeds," he said.

An official of the Federal Road Safety Corps confirmed it and said six persons, all males died in the accident while 16 others who sustained various degrees of injuries have been taken to the hospitals for treatments.