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Road Accidents Claim 8 in Edo

From Adibe Emenyonu in Benin, 04.10.2009

Eight persons yesterday died in two separate road accidents in Edo State. The first accident which occurred along Benin-Lagos Road near Okada village claimed two lives, while the second one involved a timber lorry that ran into a building at the Uslu-lagos Road killing six persons.

According an eye witness account, the second accident involved a Hilux van with registration number EW 437 LND belonging to a newspaper and a Mercedes Benz 190 with registration number CZ 04 ABJ.

The driver of the Hilux van, Mr. Olufemi Akenju, and the driver of the Mercedes Benz 190 were said to be the two persons that died while two other women seriously injured were taken to the University of Benin Teaching Hospital.

The Mercedes Benz 190 was burnt beyond recognition and the two women were said to be in a state of coma at the hospital at the time of filing this report.

Zonal Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps, Mr. Zakari Nda, said that the dead had been deposited at the UBTH mortuary.

Eyewitnesses attributed the accident to break failure and said that the driver of the lorry had jumped out of the moving lorry before it crashed into the building. The source said the fleeing driver was pursued by residents of the area who later caught up with him before he was handed over to the police.

Meanwhile, the Edo Command of FRSC has cautioned commercial drivers and motorcyclists to shun the act of overloading their vehicles with goods and passengers during the Easter season.

In a statement signed by the Sector Commander, Mr. Bulus Darwang, yesterday and made available to THISDAY stated that the 2009 Easter Special Patrol and enlightenment rally was held to further sensitise commuters on the dangers of overloading.

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