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THIS DAY

Nigeria: Crashed Lorry Kills One, Injures Others

Ernest Chinwo

1 December 2010

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Calabar — A lorry carrying yams from Ogoja to Calabar crashed yesterday, killing one and injuring many others.

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According to eyewitnesses, the lorry, with registration number AE 685 LA - Adamawa skidded off the road at Apiapum in Obubra Local Government Area of Cross River while trying to avoid a pedestrian crossing the road.

The ill-fated lorry fell, spilling its contents burying some of the passengers who apparently were on board the lorry probably on top of the goods.

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Members of the community were said to have rushed to the scene of the accident and tried to rescue the victims who were buried in the yams which spilled from the truck.

While they succeeded in rescuing some, one passenger however could not make it alive as he was trapped under the truck.

Efforts by the people mostly youths to roll over the truck to recover the body was futile as it was too heavy.

Eye witnesses said that the major cause of the accident was the bad state of the road which lacked clearing areas due to the deep cuts along the borders of the tarred road.

They said that the phenomenon which is at both sides of the road and stretches about 6kms narrowing the road to only the tarred section had often put motorists and pedestrians to risk.

They called on Government to urgently see to it that the road sides are filled up to provide opportunity for vehicles to be able to clear off the road whenever the need arose.

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The victims of the disaster most of who had major fractions on their limbs were taken by good Nigerians to the Obubra General Hospital about 1km away.

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In a remark, the Director-General, Cross River State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Mr. Vincent Aquah lamented the ugly situation and promised to collaborate with the relevant authorities to update the road situation.

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The Director who sympathized with the victims of the disaster most of whom had their roof tops blown off urged them to accept the materials as succour for their economic loss.

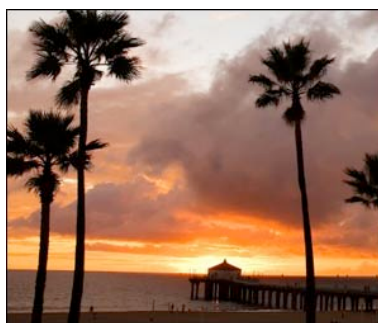
Aquah stated that though the windstorm was natural, it was necessary to take pragmatic measures to check storm related disasters by fortifying residential and public building, planting trees and avoiding deforestation at all cost.

The SEMA boss also emphasized on the need to avoid bush burning and other indiscriminate use of fire particularly during the dry seasons.

The Director-General who said that the materials were provided by the State Government in collaboration with the National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA urged the victims to use the materials judiciously.

Receiving the materials, the Chairman of Boki Local Government Area, Hon. Basie Bankong-Obi described the generosity as unprecedented and commended the State Government and NEMA for the gesture.

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Hon. Bankong-Obi said the recent attention given to the Council area on account of disasters that befell some communities ranging from natural to human made was highly appreciative.

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