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2 UI doctoral students die in autocrash

By Adebayo Waheed - 16.09.2009

THE University of Ibadan (UI) community, on Tuesday, wore a mourning mood, following the death of two doctoral students of the institution in a motor accident, which left three other persons injured.

The deceased, David Akwakwa (42) and Theresa Aigue (32), were, until their death, running a full time Ph.D programme at the Department of Botany and Microbiology.

Akwakwa, who was expected to defend his thesis last month save for the ongoing strike by members of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), was a lecturer at the Niger Delta University.

The accident, which occurred around 6.45 a.m on the Ojoo-Iwo road, opposite the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) mega station, it was learnt, involved an articulated vehicle and a car, a Toyota Carina E, which had five persons on board.

According to an eyewitness, the car lost control when it was hit by the articulated vehicle and ran into a ditch near the road, hitting a tree before it somersaulted.

The deceased, including three other occupants of the car, Nkiru Odoh of the Faculty of Agriculture at the institution, Toyce Tondo of the Guidance and Counselling Department and her sister, Jennifer, were rushed to the University College Hospital (UCH) for treatment.

While David made it to a nearby hospital before giving up, Theresa died instantly at the scene of the incident. The registrar of the university, Mrs. Omotayo Ikotun, led a team of the management of the institution to the University Anatomy Department, where the bodies were deposited around 11.45 a.m.

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