

18 perish in Benin-Ore road mishap

By Simon Ebegbulem

BENIN CITY—EIGHTEEN persons lost their lives weekend at Ofuso along Benin-Ore express road, a border town between Edo and Ondo State, when a luxury bus travelling to the East collided head-on with a bus travelling from Benin to Lagos.

An eye witness told *Vanguard* that the luxury bus with registration number XL 750 ASR belonging to ABC Transport Company which was coming from Lagos, diverted from its route to the Benin-Lagos side of the dual

carriage road when it ran into the bus belonging to Ohonba Line travelling to Lagos.

Vanguard gathered that the eighteen persons who lost their lives comprised of fifteen women and three men. It was learnt that the driver of the Ohonba line was trying to overtake a 504 saloon car not knowing that the ABC bus had diverted to the same lane because of the bad state of the other lane.

The Edo State sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Mr Sam Obayemi who confirmed the incident to *Vanguard* attributed the accident to the bad state of the road and added

that the bodies of the victims were deposited in a mortuary at Ore.

According to him, "the ABC bus driver left his lane to the other lane because his own lane was bad and unfortunately for the Ohonba Line bus, he was trying to overtake a saloon car not knowing that the luxury bus was coming and it happened.

"Though it was wrong for the ABC bus to have left his own lane but you cannot blame him because that road was bad. The condition of the road contributed to the accident."

"And of course before now we have been calling on the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to come and repair that part of the road so that people will stop dying on that road but all our efforts have fallen on deaf ears.

We have written several times to them but nobody listens to us.

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