

# 16 die in Ekiti auto crash; two-month-old baby, pastor survive

By Gbenga Ariyibi

**ADO-EKITI**— A two-month-old baby and a pastor were among the survivors in an auto-crash which claimed the lives of 16 occupants of an 18-seater bus along Aramoko-Itawure Road yesterday.

The accident, according to an eye witness was said to have occurred when a trailer loaded with fuel lost control and collided with the bus coming from the opposite direction.

The road mis-hap was said to have occurred at about 7.05am, even as the driver of the trailer was said to have jumped down and ran for his dear life, while the remaining survivors were rushed to the state specialist hospital Ado Ekiti, for medical attention.

According to Mr Onatunde Onaleye, a staff of Ekiti West Local Government Aramoko Ekiti who witnessed the unfortunate incident said the driver of the tanker with about 15,000 litres of fuel was coming from Ilesa when it suddenly lost control of the vehicle and ran into the Toyota hiace with registration number OYO XA352LUY.

*Vanguard* reliably gathered that the tanker had earlier developed fault at Itawure, a boarder town between Ekiti and Osun States when its break system failed. But the driver continued to manage the situation until he got to Aramoko and couldn't help the situation before the accident occurred. The driver of the commercial vehicle who was on his way to Lagos had taken off from Ado-Ekiti and was about negotiating a bend very close to the Ekiti West council when the tanker ran into it.

Onaleye further disclosed that before help could come the way of the victims of the

accident about nine of them had given up the ghost, adding that the rescue team had to use axes and cutlasses to dismantle the commercial vehicle before some of the victims could be brought out of the vehicle.

The eye witness further disclosed that shortly after the rescue team left the scene of the accident, the tanker caught fire and men of the state Fire Service had to be invited to put out the fire and this became a difficult task due to shortage of water.

Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Mr Micheal Adesanoye who led his team to the scene of the accident said the fire could not be put out on time because of inadequate water and had to depend on the state water corporation to supply the much needed water to put the fire out.

Meanwhile, the Secretary to the State Government, Mrs Abike Sonoiki who visited the scene of the accident sympathised with the victims, describing the accident as most unfortunate.

## ...Eight die, 10 injured in Ondo

By Dayo Johnson

**AKURE**—EIGHT persons including a House of Assembly candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) lost their lives in two separate auto crashes on Akure-Ondo and Ore-Okitipupa roads in Ondo State over the weekend and yesterday.

While the Ore-Okitipupa crash which reportedly claimed the lives of three people occurred on Saturday, the Akure-Ondo road accident occurred yesterday morning.

The victims of the Ore-Okitipupa auto crash, which include the PDP candidate for the April 14 House of Assembly poll in Ese-Odo constituency Mr Michael Reju were said to be returning from the

campaign of the party in Okitipupa local government area.

The Akure-Ondo accident, according to the Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission in the state, Mr. Ahmed Hassan, involved three vehicles. He said the vehicles were an Ondo-bound commercial bus, a trailer and a Peugeot 505 station wagon belonging to the Ondo East Local Government.

Hassan said five people, including four women and a baby died in the accident, while about 10 persons were seriously injured.

According to him "the accident which happened at Ita-Oba village, along Ondo-Akure road, was as a result of dangerous driving by the driver of the commercial bus.

**THEY  
SAID  
IT!**

"But it is in their own interest to go in peace by conducting a credible election because if they don't, we will advise Nigerians not to allow this government to extend its tenure by one day"— *Muhamadu Buhari to Federal government.*