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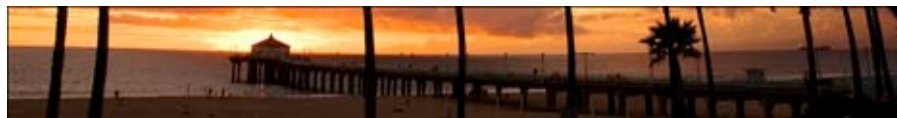
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VANGUARD

Nigeria: Auto Crash Kills 10 in Cross River

Johnbosco Agbakwuru

12 August 2011

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Calabar — No fewer than 10 persons were feared dead in a fatal accident involving a petrol tanker and an 18-seater bus, yesterday, at Ehiom in Biase Local Government Area of Cross River State.

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The accident caused heavy traffic on the busy Calabar/Ikom/Ogoja Road, as rescuers battled to save survivors.

An eyewitness, Mr. Akpan Obajie, attributed the accident to recklessness on the part of the bus driver. He said the bus had 19 passengers on board, while the tanker, a DAF truck, was carrying three persons.

Obajie explained that the bus, which was heading to Calabar from Obudu, had tried to overtake another vehicle on a sharp-bend when it ran into the oncoming tanker.

According to him, nine persons died instantly in the bus. One died on the way to hospital while nine others, including the bus driver, who were unconscious were rushed to Ugep and

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Akamkpa general hospitals.

The eyewitness said: "The accident was a clear case of over speeding and carelessness by the bus driver. We deposited nine mangled corpses at the Ugep General Hospital."

Mr. Justine Adie, parent of two of the deceased, could not hold back his tears when he visited the scene of the accident.

Adie, a lecturer with the College of Health Technology, Calabar, said his daughter and son were coming to Calabar for their respective examinations when they met their untimely death.

Apart from recklessness of some drivers plying the road, another eyewitness, Mr. Joe Obida, attributed the accident to the bad state of the busy road.

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