

# 18 die in Edo, Sokoto auto crashes

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**B**ODINGA(SOKOTO)—  
EIGHTEEN persons,  
yesterday, died in auto  
accidents in Benin and  
Sokoto .

In the accident that  
occurred at Okada junction  
on the Benin-Ore dual  
carriageway, 11 people,  
including two children  
died.

The accident which  
occurred about 4p.m.  
involved a commercial bus  
belonging to Peace Mass  
Transit Company and a  
truck conveying goods  
towards the Lagos end of the  
road.

The remains of the dead  
were said to have been  
evacuated from the scene by  
Federal Road Safety Corps  
officials. It was gathered  
that a couple who were  
allegedly going for their  
wedding arrangement, and

another woman who was  
going for burial were  
among those who lost their  
lives.

According to one of the  
four survivors of the  
accident, Mr. Anthony  
Ndubuisi, a South Africa-  
based footballer who spoke  
to newsmen in the accident  
and emergency unit of  
University of Benin  
Teaching Hospital (UBTH),  
the Onitsha-bound bus took  
off at Ojuelegba Motor Park  
in Lagos with 17 passengers  
including two small  
children belonging to two of  
the adult passengers.

Ndubisi, who plays for  
Jomo Cosmos FC of South  
Africa, attributed the  
accident to overspeeding  
and recklessness on the part  
of the driver.

He said that the driver,  
who allegedly escaped  
unhurt, was driving on the  
opposite lane and was  
overtaking another vehicle  
on top speed, when he had

an head-on collision with a  
trailer that was coming on  
top speed in the opposite  
direction.

The accident which  
occurred on Sokoto-  
Bodinga Road, late  
Wednesday evening,  
claimed the lives of seven  
members of the family of a  
Sokoto-based electronics  
dealer, Alhaji Jekada  
Sifawa.

The accident involved a  
Sienna vehicle, driven by a  
teenager, who was said to  
have lost control of the  
vehicle because he was on  
his mobile phone while  
driving.

It was also gathered that  
all the 15 people in the  
vehicle were of the Jekada  
Sifawa family and were said  
to be going back to Sifawa  
village in Bodinga Local  
Government Area from  
Sokoto.

When the driver lost  
control of the car, he swerved  
off the road and hit a tree.