

Road crashes kill 9 in Edo

BY GABRIEL
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BENIN—NO fewer than nine persons have been confirmed dead in two separate road accidents that occurred in Jattu and Aduwawa, Estako West and Ikpoba Okha local government areas, respectively, Tuesday.

While six persons, four males and two females, were said to have died in the Aduwawa accident, three persons were reportedly killed at the Jattu accident.

According to eyewitness account, the accident at Aduwawa, near Benin, occurred at about 8:30pm when a commercial Toyota Hiace with number plate XG 993 BEN and two Mercedes Benz trucks, with number plates XG 210 MKA and XJ 111 USL, collided.

Edo State Sector Commander of Federal Road Safety Commission, FRSC, Mr. Henry Olatunji who confirmed the Aduwawa accident, said the victims died in the hospitals they were rushed to.

He said: "No death was recorded on the spot. Six persons died at the hospitals we sent them to.

Three died at our clinic while the remaining died at the Central Hospital."

The three persons that died in the Jattu accident were said to have been crushed by a trailer with number plate XP 66 AKD.

It had a break failure while descending the slope from Jattu axis.

An eyewitness said the trailer rammed into a car and four motor-cycles killing its riders and a female road side food seller.

Divisional Traffic Officer in the area, Mr. Ogboi Moses, confirmed the accident, saying the wounded have been taken to a private hospital, while the driver was in police custody.

FUPRE students leave for home

BY EMMA AMAIZE

WARRI — STUDENTS of Federal University of Petroleum Resources, FUPRE, Effurun, Delta State, have started leaving for their homes as no lecturer would teach them.

Some of the students were seen with their bags and baggage about 7.00am, yesterday, leaving their hostels.

One of them told *Vanguard*: "We are not happy with what is going on. The government should comply with the rules and regulations guiding the institution and allow the Governing Council to run the university as prescribed by law.

"We are the ones suffering from the bad management of the people appointed to head

the school. Look at our plight. For five years, none of the programmes being run in a Federal university has been accredited and some people are just defrauding the system."

Academic Staff Union of Universities, ASUU, and Non-Academic Staff Union, NASU, FUPRE chapters, had embarked on a work-to-rule last Tuesday over alleged unlawful recall of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Babatunde Alabi and Registrar, Dr. L. Onwuka, from their accumulated/terminal leave against the decision of the Governing Council.

Senior Staff Association of Nigeria Universities, SSANU, did not oppose the work-to-rule, but opted for dialogue.

As at yesterday, however, ASUU and NASU still maintained that their

members would not return to work unless the Minister of Education rescinded her decision on the recall of Prof. Alabi and Mrs. Onwuka.

Director, Academic Standards, National Universities Commission, NUC, Prof. Alhassan Bichi, was deployed to the university, Monday, to douse tension, but stakeholders are suspicious of the commission's move.

According to a Niger-Delta activist, Mr. Emma Akpovoka, NUC was simply perfecting the illegal stay of embattled Prof. Alabi with the unilateral order of the Minister of Education and subsequent deployment of Prof. Bichi to FUPRE.

He said NUC's suspicious intervention to perfect the stay of Prof. Alabi and Mrs. Onwuka, could be traced to a letter, dated October 27, signed