

# 8 die in Rivers, Delta auto crashes

By Davies  
Iheamnachor

**P**ORT HARCOURT— Eight persons were reported dead in auto crashes in Rivers and Delta States, yesterday.

In the Rivers State crash, six persons were reported dead at Iriebe area of Port Harcourt-Aba Expressway, Obio/Akpor Local Government Area of Rivers State, yesterday, but the Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC, confirmed that three persons died in the accident while in Delta accident, involving four vehicles in Ogwuashi-Ukwu on the Ughelli-Asaba highway, yesterday, claimed two lives.

The Rivers accident, which occurred around Intel's Junction, on Port Harcourt-Aba Expressway, was between a Hiace bus loaded with passengers and a stationed truck loaded with timber.

The Federal Road Safety Corps while confirming the incidents said it was tragic and pitiable, blaming the accident on poor visibility.

The FRSC Sector Commander in the state, Salisu Galadunchi, said the accident might have occurred because of poor visibility, adding that three dead bodies were recovered from the bus.

Galadunchi said: "It happened around Oyibo Eleme Area. The accident happened around 6:00 am, Wednesday morning. The vehicles involved are a Toyota Hiace bus and a truck. The Toyota bus went under the truck.

"The truck was parked off the road, but because the driver of the bus was moving that early morning, and you know that early in Port Harcourt there is poor visibility.

"Because of the poor visibility, the bus went off its lane and entered under the parked truck.

"When we got there we met three dead bodies, two men and a woman. Police helped us in bringing the bodies out."

He said the dead bodies have been deposited in a mortuary while other victims who sustained injuries have been hospitalized.

But a source privy to the accident, who gave his name simply as Ikenna, claimed that no fewer than 11 passengers involved in the accident died.

He said: "About six to seven corpses were burnt beyond recognition. The Police made frantic efforts to reach the respective families through their phones.

## 2 die in Delta multiple auto accident

Meanwhile, another auto crash involving four vehicles in Ogwuashi-



Scene of the Delta accident. Photo: NAN.

Uku, yesterday claimed two lives in the Ughelli-Asaba highway. The Sector Commander of FRSC, Mr Ibrahim Abubakar, who confirmed the accident in Asaba, said the accident involved a Toyota Sienna, a tanker and two trucks, adding that the accident could be attributed to brake failure of one of the trucks.

He said: "It emanated from a possible collision with a Sienna bus, a tanker allegedly conveying liquefied gas and another truck carrying medical

supplies.

"The driver of the Sienna bus and the front passenger reportedly died on the spot. An axe was used to dismantle the affected parts of the bus to bring out the victims."

He said that FRSC officials and the Delta Fire Service personnel were at the scene to intervene in the event of any explosion from the truck conveying gas.

## Court sentences ex-banker to 10 years in jail for theft, forgery

By Onozure Dania

**L**AGOS—A Lagos Magistrate's court sitting in Tinubu, has sentenced a former bank worker, Samuel Arayode, to 10 years imprisonment for stealing and forgery.

Magistrate Olumide Fusikat convicted Arayode for the theft of N540,000 belonging to his employer and forging a Lagos State Polytechnic (LASPOTECH) Higher National Diploma (HND) certificate.

The court found him guilty of all three counts, and sentenced Arayode to 18 months on count one for forgery, seven years on count two for stealing and 18 months for conspiracy on count three.

Magistrate Fusikat ordered the

convict to refund the stolen money to the bank with interest.

The court also said the sentence would run concurrently, meaning Arayode would only spend a maximum of seven years in jail.

The judgment followed a seven-year trial before two magistrates.

According to the Police's Maroko Division in Lekki, which arrested him, the convict secured the job with the bank's Ikota, Lagos branch using the certificate he forged in 2010.

Arayode, now 28, was said to have committed the offences in 2014 when he was 20 years old.

He was arraigned on a charge marked L/125/2014 on August 26, 2014, before Senior Magistrate A.T. Omoyele of the same court.