

6 killed in Edo auto crash

By Ozioruva Aliu & Gabriel Enogholase

BENIN CITY— SIX persons, all males, were, yesterday, feared dead in Auchi, headquarters of Etsako West Local Government Area of Edo State when a truck loaded with cement reportedly rammed into a crowd of people killing six people while 14 others sustained injuries.

The Sector Commander, Federal Roads Safety Commission, FRSC, Henry Benamaisa, who confirmed the incident, said: "Eight vehicles and 20 persons were involved in the accident, six died while 14 sustained injuries. The accident was as a result of brake failure."

An eyewitness, Sani Aliu, said the ill-fated vehicle was from the popular up garage area of the polytechnic town and descending the hill when it suddenly had a brake failure and the driver lost control in the process.

He said he was in the company of friends at the nearby Inu Umoru Street when he heard the loud noise.

Sani said he was speechless when he got to the scene of the accident as the vehicle rammed into many shops, killing several persons and destroying goods worth millions of naira.

Sani said sympathisers were making frantic efforts to pull out corpses from the rubbles of the collapsed buildings and under the chassis of the vehicle.

"Auchi is in deep mourning. Early this morning (Wednesday), the driver of a trailer conveying cement lost control as a result of brake failure and crashed into the popular Igbo Shade, killing several persons which included traders and buyers."

The President of the Red Cross Society of Nigeria, Auchi branch, Mr Jedaiah Oshioke, who was on ground to the carry out rescue operation, said some persons died while casualties were recorded from the incident.