

11 die, 8 injured in Edo auto crash

By Ozioruva Aliu

BENIN CITY—ELEVEN persons, yesterday, died while eight others sustained injuries in an accident on the Edo State section of the Benin-Lagos expressway involving a Toyota Hiace 18-seater bus and a truck belonging to a popular cement company.

The accident, it was gathered,

happened about 11a.m. at the Ovia river, notorious for accidents, due to a failed section of the road and the bridge by the river.

It was gathered that a truck heading towards Benin from Lagos on top speed rammed into the bus that was said to have slowed down on the failed portion of the road after brushing the back side of a Kia vehicle, killing 11 persons on the spot

and injuring several others.

An eye witness said: "The Toyota Hiace bus going to the East enroute Edo State slowed down at the bad portion of the Ovia river bridge but the truck that was on top speed rammed into the bus, killing the passengers."

It was gathered that some of the occupants of the bus and victims were coming from Lagos after attending a programme

organised by a popular Lagos-based church.

The Edo State Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC, Paul Okpe, who confirmed the accident, said: "We had a crash on the bridge at Ovia River this morning. A truck ran into a Toyota Hiace bus and 11 persons lost their lives and eight persons were injured.

"Both the dead and the injured

were moved to the University of Benin Teaching Hospital, UBTH, by our ambulances and three vehicles were involved. The truck ran into the Toyota Hiace but before hitting the Toyota Hiace, it narrowly missed a Kia vehicle. The three vehicles are in the police station not far from our office at the toll gate.

"For the possible cause, we are leaving that to our Accident Investigations to establish, but it was the truck that ran into the vehicles and the victims were in the bus."