



# FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

## FEDERAL ROAD SAFETY CORPS



### REPORT ON FATAL ROAD TRAFFIC CRASH NEAR NIGERIA PRISONS ON BILL CLINTON WAY (AIRPORT ROAD), ABUJA ON OCTOBER 13, 2010

#### 1. DESCRIPTION OF COLLISION

COMMAND	RS7HQ, FCT
Location of Crash	Bill Clinton Drive, Airport, Abuja (near the Headquarters of the Nigerian Prisons Service)
Time and Date of crash	1500 hrs of Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> October, 2010
Type of Crash	Side (oblique) impact
No of Vehicles involved	2 Vehicles: Toyota Hilux 2.7 (pick-up) FG02-G10 and Toyota Prado Land-Cruiser VX (SUV) ET28-ABJ)
No of passengers	8 persons including the driver
No of casualties	8 persons (7Adult Male, 1Adult Female) drivers inclusive
No of persons injured	4 persons (3Adult Male) including the driver
No of persons killed	3 persons (3Adult Male) including the driver
Investigator	OG Adaji (SRC)-Zonal Accident Investigation Officer RS7, FCT
Damages	The Toyota Prado sustained both induced and contact damages which resulted in damage to the front windshield, rear and side mirrors, front and rear lights with the left side airbag deployed. Toyota Hilux had its Right Handside headlight frame, bonnet and radiator damaged as a result of the impact with V2.
Report	CN Njoku (DCC) HOS Accident Investigation and Assessment

2. The road is a 4-lane dual carriageway and is made up of bituminous asphalt with good surface and well developed shoulder. The road crash occurred in an open and straight road. The location of the crash is about 1.3km from the intersection of Bill Clinton Drive with Umaru Yar'Adua Expressway. The crash occurred on a bright and sunny day, and the road surface was dry which meant that visibility was good also. The road which links Umaru Musa Yar'Adua Expressway and Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport is characterized with low traffic volume at this period because it is off-peak period.

#### CRASH ANALYSIS

3. Two vehicles, a Toyota Hilux 2.7 pick-up van the Hand Toyota Prado Landcruiser VX, were travelling on the same direction towards the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport with the Hilux on the fast (outer) lane and the Prado in the slow (inner) lane. There were two accounts of what happened.

- a. One account claimed the driver of the Hilux which was travelling at high speed reportedly lost control and swerved to the lane of travel of the Prado, smashing into it by the left side.
- b. The driver of the Hilux however claimed that the Prado impacted on his vehicle first and forced it to hit the kerb (median) and spurn back to the road.

4. The impact led to the overturning (3 somersaults) of the Prado which came to rest with its tyres upward while three of the four occupants who included the President, National Union of Road Transport Workers, died on the spot. The rear occupants of Occupant of the Prado were thrown out of the vehicle during the somersault. The Hilux also spurned and rested facing the opposite direction of travel. After reconstructing the crash severally, the Investigation establishes the following;

The final resting places of the vehicles suggest that the probability of the Hilux having oblique impact of The Prado is most likely. The Hilux hit the kerb (median) as evidenced by underinflated Front Left tyre. The driver struggled to regain control but swerved to the lane of travel of The Prado and struck it obliquely at the Rear Left door. This force of impact coupled with speeds of both vehicles, resulted into the somersault of The Prado which eventually rested on its roof.

5. The contributory cause to this crash include high speeds of both vehicles and loss of concentration on the part of driver of The Hilux whose vehicle struck the kerb;
  - a. Direct Cause: Loss of control of the Hilux due to the impact with the kerb;
  - b. Indirect Cause: Excessive speed and poor evasive skill of The Hilux driver.
  - c. Basic Cause: Low traffic enforcement and non-use of seatbelts.

#### CONCLUSION

6. This crash occurred because of lack of concentration of the driver of vehicle The Hilux who struck the left kerb (median) while at a high speed. The occupants of the Prado were thrown out because their seatbelts were not used. It also gives credence to the established fact that most fatal crashes occur on road with good pavements.

#### 7. RECOMMENDATION

- a. The Corps to upgrade speed limiting measures including mobile patrols with the aim of checkmating the excesses of motorists, along Bill Clinton Drive.
- b. Aggressive and sustained public enlightenment campaign on the need for motorists to observe common sense speed and use of front and rear seatbelt.
- c. The Corps to write Ministries, Departments, Agencies and National Assembly on the need for top officials to always depart for the airport early to avoid unnecessary rush/speed.
- d. Introduction of "speed zones" on the road with appropriate signs.
- e. Prompt rescue services (Zebra or attached to Unit Command)

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FEDERAL ROAD SAFETY CORPS