

Six killed, 29 injured in Lagos, Ogun road crashes

February 3, 2026 12:40 am



•The accident scene. Photo:FRSC

Johnson Idowu and Favour Abalaka

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No fewer than six people lost their lives, while 23 others sustained varying degrees of injuries when a vehicle loaded with cows and passengers crashed near the Foursquare Camp gate along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway on Monday.

PUNCH Metro learnt on Monday from the spokesperson for the Ogun State Sector Command of the Federal Road Safety Corps, Afolabi Odunsi, that the accident occurred at about 12 p.m.

According to Odunsi, the crash occurred as a result of speed violation and loss of control.

He added that 29 people were involved in the accident, with 23 sustaining injuries and six losing their lives.

Odunsi said, “The Federal Road Safety Corps Ogun Sector Command reports a fatal road traffic crash on the Ibadan–Lagos Expressway near the Foursquare Camp area earlier today.

“A DAF CF 380 trailer with registration number SNA 287 XA was involved in the lone crash.

“A total of 29 persons were involved; 23 persons were injured while six persons were killed.”

He lamented that the practice of loading animals alongside passengers often makes rescue operations difficult and may worsen casualties during accidents.

The Ogun FRSC spokesperson added that an investigation had commenced to determine the exact mechanical fault responsible for the crash.

“In the event of a crash, it is difficult to separate humans from goods, which may eventually lead to loss of lives. It was a fatal single-vehicle collision.

He also noted that 29 cows died in the crash.

“Investigations are ongoing to determine the precise mechanical and contributing factors.

“The injured and dead bodies were taken to Oreoluwa Hospital, GOFAMINT Camp, Ogunmakin, and Victory Hospital, Ogere,” Odunsi added.

He urged motorists to ensure proper servicing of their vehicles, maintain safe speed limits, and observe road safety regulations.

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In a related development, six commuters sustained varying degrees of injuries on Monday following a road accident involving a commercial bus on the Third Mainland Bridge, inward Iyana-Oworonsoki, Lagos State.

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PUNCH Metro learnt from a statement signed by the spokesperson for the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority, Taofiq Adebayo, on Monday that the accident involved a painted Volkswagen commercial bus with registration number KRD 436 XF, said to be fully loaded with passengers and household items at the time of the incident.

According to him, the bus reportedly suffered a sudden mechanical failure of its braking system while in motion, causing the driver to lose control before the vehicle eventually capsised on its side.

As a result of the crash, six passengers, comprising two adult males and four adult females, sustained serious injuries, while one of the victims was said to have suffered a critical eye injury.

The statement read, “Initial findings indicate that the fully laden commercial bus, transporting passengers alongside assorted household items, reportedly experienced a sudden and catastrophic mechanical failure of its braking system while in transit. This mechanical malfunction precipitated a loss of vehicular control, culminating in the bus capsizing onto its flank.

“The calamitous incident resulted in six passengers, comprising two adult males and four adult females, sustaining serious bodily injuries, while one passenger suffered a critical ocular injury at the point of impact.

“Personnel of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), who were actively deployed on routine surveillance duties within the affected corridor, responded with exemplary promptness and operational efficiency. Through a well-coordinated emergency response, all six critically injured victims were successfully extricated from the wreckage.”

He added that some Good Samaritans swiftly transported four of the injured passengers to an undisclosed medical facility for urgent treatment.

Officers of the Nigeria Police Force, Adekunle Division, were also said to have rendered crucial assistance by conveying one male victim who sustained multiple fractures to a hospital for intensive medical care.

“Additionally, operatives of the Lagos State Ambulance Service (LASAMBUS) administered immediate on-site medical attention to another injured passenger at the scene of the incident.

“In order to avert secondary accidents and promptly reinstate vehicular flow, LASTMA officials ensured the immediate removal and evacuation of the accident vehicle from the carriageway,” he added.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on Transportation, Hon. Sola Giwa, in the statement sympathised with the injured passengers and their families, while wishing them a speedy and full recovery.

“He further used the occasion to issue a firm caution to the motoring public, particularly commercial transport operators, to desist from the perilous practice of vehicle overloading and to accord utmost priority to regular mechanical assessments, with specific emphasis on braking systems, before embarking on journeys within or outside Lagos State.

“Hon. Giwa reaffirmed the Lagos State Government’s commitment to the preservation of lives and property across its road networks, underscoring that acts of avoidable negligence and mechanical irresponsibility would continue to attract stringent regulatory sanctions,” the statement concluded.

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PUNCH Metro reported on January 23 that a fatal accident at the Otedola Bridge section of the expressway led to a prolonged gridlock.

The spokesperson for the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority, Adebayo Taofiq, had confirmed that the twin accident led to the death of a truck driver.