

# Driver flees as truck, bus collision kills four in Lagos

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The incident scene. Photo: LASTMA

By Johnson Idowu

The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority has said the driver of a truck that rammed into a commercial bus, leaving four passengers dead along the Lekki–Epe Expressway, fled the scene after the crash.

PUNCH Metro learnt on Sunday from a statement issued by the LASTMA spokesperson, Adebayo Taofiq, that the accident occurred over the weekend opposite Beechwood, Shapati, inward Ajah area of the state.

Taofiq stated that the fatal crash involved a HOWO truck with registration number KNN 313 YL and a fully loaded Suzuki commercial minibus popularly known as “Korope.”

He explained that preliminary findings indicated that the driver of the articulated truck lost control while the vehicle was in motion.

According to him, the impact of the collision led to the immediate death of four male passengers, while four others sustained severe injuries.

“The driver of the articulated truck lost control while in motion and the truck veered uncontrollably across the carriageway, violently ramming into an oncoming commercial minibus conveying passengers along the corridor.

“The catastrophic impact of the collision resulted in the immediate death of four male passengers, while four other occupants, comprising two males and two females, sustained severe fracture injuries

after becoming trapped in the mangled wreckage of the commercial vehicle,” the statement read.

He added that LASTMA personnel swiftly mobilised to the scene and rescued the injured victims from the wreckage with the assistance of other emergency responders and passers-by.

“LASTMA personnel painstakingly extricated the four trapped victims from the crushed remains of the commercial bus with the support of other emergency responders,” he added.

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The injured victims were immediately taken to Hamon Royal Hospital for urgent medical treatment, while officials of the Federal Road Safety Corps evacuated the bodies of the deceased to the Shency Hospital morgue.

Taofiq said the truck driver and his motor boy fled the scene shortly after the crash.

He noted that security operatives of the Nigeria Police Force attached to the Elemoro Police Division were also deployed to the scene to maintain order and ensure the safety of rescue personnel and other road users.

According to him, the police have assured that a thorough investigation will be carried out to determine the cause of the accident.

Reacting to the incident, the General Manager of LASTMA, Olalekan Bakare-Oki, expressed grief over the loss of lives and extended condolences to the families of the victims.

He urged motorists, particularly drivers of articulated vehicles, to exercise caution and strictly adhere to traffic safety regulations.

PUNCH Metro had reported last Monday that a female passenger died while six others sustained severe injuries in a road accident at New Castle Bus Stop, inward Gbagada, along the Oworonsoki-Apapa Expressway in Lagos.

Taofiq had said the incident involved a Volkswagen commercial bus with registration number LSD 654 XY that reportedly veered off the road and rammed into a roadside culvert.

