

15 feared dead in multiple crash

LUKKEY ABAWURU
with agency report

OVER 15 unidentified passengers were feared dead yesterday, while eight others were seriously injured in a multiple motor accident which occurred on Abuja-Lokoja expressway.

A correspondent of the *News Agency of Nigeria* (NAN) who witnessed the accident scene said an officer of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), who requested anonymity, confirmed the accident and the casualty figure.

"I cannot say much now. As you can see, we are still trying to assist the victims," the female officer told the NAN correspondent.

The multiple crash involved a Port Harcourt-bound Peace Mass Transit commuter bus, a tanker and a Volkswagen Golf car.

The tanker crushed the bus and the car, killing the car driver on his steering wheel. FRSC officers who raced to the scene had to call for reinforcement to quickly remove the corpses and the injured.

Another eyewitness told NAN that the bus was trying to avoid a motorcyclist when it ran into the Volkswagen car, which

collided with tanker.

At another incident in Auchi, Edo State, two motorcycle (Okada) operators were crushed at the weekend, while they were ferrying persons suspected to be examination mercenaries during the nationwide Joint Admissions, and Matriculation Board (JAMB) examinations.

The tragedy punctuated the police's arrest last weekend of 50 people in Auchi, Edo State, for alleged examination

malpractices.

News Agency of Nigeria reports that the Okada riders lost their lives while attempting to ferry the students away.

A tipper lorry crushed one of the victims at Orle River, while his colleague was killed few kilometres to Ihievbe by former Radio Bendel, Station.

Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of the area, NAN said, declined to comment on the arrests.

Ali denies bickering with Gov Iris

MALACHY UZENDU,
Head Editorial, Abuja

FORMER national Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Dr. Ahmadu Ali yesterday denied working against the political interest Kogi State governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris.

In a statement issued in Abuja entitled "Governor Ibrahim Idris' Outbursts: Putting the Records Straight", Ali said he was shocked to read Idris in an interview (not with *Daily Champion*) where Idris said he (Ali) has been working against his political interests.

Ali explained that due to poor quality advisers who surround Governor Idris, all the advice he had offered

the governor was interpreted negatively, even when he meant well and offered correct advice to him (Idris), stressing that Idris was his political son.

In the two-page statement, Ali stated that "I am shocked by the governor's outburst more so when I had no disagreement of any kind with him. He is my political son, who I have supported since he came to power in 2003.

"I started canvassing for his second term in office in 2006 publicly at the 50th coronation anniversary of his majesty, the Attah of Igala. At the time, I came under serious attacks by some party members, who felt that as the national chairman of our party, I was unduly favouring the governor.