

# 12 students perish in Kogi

By *TIMOTHY AJIBOYE, Lokoja*

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It was a black Saturday in Lokoja yesterday as 12 students of Government Science Secondary School Lokoja lost their lives while 19 others sustained varying degree of injuries in a ghastly motor accident which occurred at about 4.30 pm along Mount Patti road in the Kogi state capital while returning from an excursion to the top of the mountain.

Eleven of the students, 10 female and a male were said to have died on the spot while another female student died at the hospital as Doctors at the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Lokoja, where they were rushed to, were battling to save her live while their corpses have been deposited at Mortuary of Ankuri Hospital in Lokoja while the remaining survivors are still undergoing treatment at the same hospital.

The students, who were taken on excursion to the historical Mount Patti which houses the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) Lokoja Studio and the newly established Confluence Cable Network owned by Senator Tunde Ogbeha by NYSC Tourism Club were said to have been packed in a black 18-seater Hiace Toyota bus with registration number SP 920 AAA which lost control as they were descending the slopes of the Mountain.

Though the driver of the bus is still at large as at press time, the conductor of the bus, 18 year Christian Isiah, who spoke to newsmen on his bed in Ward 17 of the hospital explained that the accident occurred when the driver turned off the ignition of the vehicle to save fuel leading to the locking of the bus' steering and the driver was said to have lost control and ran into a ditch.