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Countryman

EFCC: I WILL STEP ON TOES
— MRS WAZIRI



THAT MEANS YOU MAY
PROCEED TO SCHOOL
VERY SOON

400 Nigerians die monthly in road accidents —FRSC boss

THOMAS IMONIKHE *and*

TIMOTHY AJIBOYE, *Lokoja*

Eleven people were yesterday crushed to death in a motor accident at Jamata overhead bridge along Lokoja- Abuja road.

This is as the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) yesterday said 400 Nigerians die in various auto accidents monthly and announced measures to reduce current carnage on the nation's highways.

Corps Marshall and Chief Executive of the commission, Mr. Osita Chidoka, who said this at on interactive session with newsmen in Lagos promised to strengthen the FRSC Act, purchase 180 new vehicles and ensure regular training of personnel to control the high rate of accidents nationwide.

According to eyewitness, a luxury bus with registration number XC 129 coming from Kano to Aba, Abia State lost control and rammed into a faulty truck with registration number XH 272 UWN, on the Jamata bridge in Lokoja, Kogi state, leading to the death of the passengers made up of nine men and two female.

The Kogi Sector commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Mr. Yomi Asaniyan confirmed the incident.

He blamed the fatal accident on over speeding, while urging relations of victims of the accident to visit the Federal Medical Centre Lokoja for confirmation.

Chidoka said, in the Lagos parley that the commission would finance its activities from the N2.4 billion appropriated to it in this year's Federal budget as against N607 million budgeted for the FRSC in 2007.

He said the commission had began move to regulate activities of 239 driving schools identified in the country adding that 117 of them have applied to the FRSC for approval.

About 49 of such driving schools, he said have been recommended to the state governments for recognition.

He said such intervention became necessary to ensure that only those who passed out from accredited driving schools are issued with the new driver licence.

On the agitation by Lagos state government to issue driver licence, Chidoka said it was unconstitutional for any state government to do so because the FRSC Act empowers only the commission on to produce the document.

He said experience has shown that most states have failed in their primary assignment of

testing and verifying applicants for the national driver licence.

"We can't pick and choose what we want from the Nigeria Federation," he said. He dismissed argument by proponents of decentralisation of the issuance of driver licence that the practice was a creation of the military.

He said such decentralization would have grave security implication for the country.

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