

One dies, nine injured in Abuja-Lokoja auto-crash

By Idris Ahmed

One person died while nine others sustained different degree of injuries on Thursday in an auto-crash involving a lorry, Mercedes Benz and a Peugeot car at Gwagwalada along Abuja-Lokoja road.

The dead body of the driver of the Peugeot which is yet to be claimed is lying at the Gwagwalada Specialist Hospital mortuary, while the six injured passengers of the lorry are receiving treatment at the same hospital. The relatives of the injured passengers who hail from Kano have since been contacted, the hospital authority disclosed.

The driver of the lorry has been taken to Kano, while information on the whereabouts of the driver to the Mercedes Benz was not disclosed as at press time.

The lorry which carried Oranges and Palm oil was coming from Ekiti State and heading to Kano State.

The accident according to an eye witness occurred at about 2pm on Thursday, at the place which the Federal Road safety described as an accident prone spot.

One of the survivors of the accident, Alhaji Ali Suleiman told *City News* that

the accident was caused by dangerous overtaking by the driver of the Abuja Green Car.

He said: "The driver of the green cab overtook our lorry, and lost control hit the tyre of our motor. Our driver lost control and somersaulted and hit the Mercedes Benz coming in the opposite direction. The Benz tried to avoid the accident by leaving the road but could not climb the road again and our motor climbed it."

Four of the injured victims at the hospital told our reporter that they did not know how the accident happened

as they were all asleep. One of the victims sustained serious pelvic injury, hospital management said.

The head of operations of the Road Safety Commission, Benjamin Anafa, who confirmed the accident on behalf of the unit commander of the commission in charge of Gwagwalada said: "As soon as we heard of the accident at about 2.30pm, we dispatched our rescue party to the area. We discovered one of the tyres of the lorry had burst, but unfortunately for him, there was a coca-cola vehicle that broke down

along the road which made it difficult for him to maneuver his vehicle, and lost control. In an attempt to swerve, he ran into the two coming vehicles. There are twelve casualties, of which one died and nine injured. The victims were immediately rushed to the Gwagwalada Specialist Hospital.

The casualty officer at the Gwagwalada Hospital, Dr. Kumdong Bindul, who confirmed the number of casualties to *City News*, complained of lack of space to accommodate injured accident victims brought to the hospi-

tal on a daily basis.

He said: "the number of accident victims brought to us is increasing, and the facilities at the hospital to accommodate them is not adequate. No day passes without accident cases along the Lokoja- Abuja Road and the victims are usually brought to us."

Lokoja-Abuja road links the north and the southern part of the country. The road which is a one lane-narrow-road has claimed many lives. The government has promised on several occasions to dualize the road but it is yet to be done.

