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15 die as bus plunges into river

Written by [Abubakar Sadiq](#), on 23-09-2008 02:17

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Fifteen persons lost their lives while three others sustained various degrees of injuries on Sunday night in an accident that occurred at Kwaita village along the Kwali-Lokoja highway.

The Abaji Unit Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission(FRSC), Mr. O.J Ojerinde, who confirmed the accident to City News, said the Toyota Hiace bus plate number could not be identified because the bus was still inside the river.

He said the accident happened at about 11:30 pm, when the driver who was conveying 18 passengers from Lagos to Abuja lost control and plunged into a river.

He explained that the driver was on high speed and still making phone calls adding that he lost control and veered off the road and plunged into the river killing 15 persons on the spot.

He said it was the residents of Kwaita village who phoned the Unit Command, intimating them of the incident, saying he immediately dispatched his men to the scene and that with the efforts of the villagers and fishermen, they were able to remove the corpses from the river..

Mr. Ojerinde stated that out of the 15 corpses,11 were evacuated to the Federal Medical Center,Lokoja- Kogi state, while four were taken to the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital morgue, adding that the three injured are receiving treatment at the same hospital.

Meanwhile, the bus was still inside the river when our reporter visited the scene yesterday while the FRSC officials were seen making frantic efforts to get a crane to remove the bus.

In another accident,one person died while six others sustained serious injuries over the weekend in a motor accident that occurred along the Abuja-Lokoja highway.

The accident which happened at about 750;pm in Abai town, opposite Con Oil filling station, involved a Volkswagen car with registration number XR 707 LSR with eight passengers on board.

The Abaji Unit Commander of the FRSC, Mr. Ojerinde, who also confirmed the accident, said it was caused as by tyre burst.

He said the Volkswagen car driver who was conveying passengers from Benin, heading to Abuja was on high speed when one of the front tyres burst, and the vehicle somersaulted thrice before crashing into a drainage killing one person.

He said when he was informed of the incident, he mobilised men to evacuate the victims to Abaji General Hospital, while the corpse was taken to the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital morgue.

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