

5 die in Abaji auto crash

PIC: ADEWOYI ADEFEMI



ACCIDENT scene along the Abuja Lokoja Highway.

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

FIVE people died on Saturday evening while 10 others sustained injuries in a ghastly accident that occurred at Abaji Bridge, along Abuja-Lokoja highway.

Eyewitness said the accident which happened at about 8:12 involved a Hiace bus with registration number XR 733 APP, a tanker without number plate and

a Nissan Primera with registration number AA 830 ERE.

According to the witness, the Nissan Primera which was coming from Lokoja end at top speed overtook dangerously while on top of a bridge and in the process lost control and crashed into the Hiace bus, while the truck that was coming from behind rammed into them, leaving 5 dead.

The Abaji Unit Commander

of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC,) Mr. Joseph Ezeh, who confirmed the accident, blamed the driver of the Nissan car for overtaking dangerously while on top of the bridge.

He said the five corpses have been deposited at the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital morgue, while the injured ones were taken to the Abaji General hospital for treatment.

He disclosed that the sum of N400, 000 cash and other valuable items that were recovered from the scene of crash were kept at the command office, adding that the command was still making efforts to contact the deceased's relatives to come for the items.

The FRSC commander warned motorists to desist from dangerous driving in order to reach their destinations safely.

Women Ministry calls on FCT to review laws on street hawking

By Akor Ojoma

FOLLOWING the recent court action against minors involved in street hawking in the Federal Capital Territory, the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development has called on the Federal Capital Territory Administration to review such laws to make parents culpable instead of innocent children.

Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development, Iyom Josephine Anenih, made the call in a statement in reaction to newspaper reports that an Abuja Mobile Court on Wednesday ordered seven underaged hawkers to be given seven strokes of the cane and sentenced 10 others to one month imprisonment.

Iyom Anenih said parents are expected to protect, promote and advance the general welfare and education of their children and wards, and should not therefore use them for commercial activities, which in most cases expose them to violence and other societal ills, bordering on child abuse and neglect.

"It is the responsibility of every parent or guardian to send their children/wards to school and ensure a brighter future for them. Indeed, children should be in school and not on the streets," she said.

The minister called on parents to take full responsibility for their wards, and stop exposing them to hazardous situations that will lead them to criminality or turn them into social misfits.

According to the statement, the minister said to further protect the welfare of Nigerian Children, the Federal Government domesticated the Child Right's Convention into the Child Right's Act of 2003, and has been advocating for its subsequent domestication and full implementation in all the 36 states of the federation and the Federal Capital Territory.