



AN FRSC van evaluating accident victims along Abuja-Lokoja road at the weekend.

Nine die, 56 injured along Abuja-Lokoja road

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

ABOUT nine persons lost their lives, while 56 others sustained various degrees of injuries from September to date, along the Abaji, Abuja-Lokoja highway.

Abaji unit commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) Mr. Joseph Onyemauche Ezeh, gave a figure of seven deaths for last month, while two other persons, including a student of Federal Polytechnic Idah, Godwin O. Agahilu, who died Saturday morning in ghastly motor accidents along the same road.

The FRSC commander said 44 vehicles were involved in separate accidents within September which involved 78 passengers.

According to him, 43 males and 13 females, including a three-year-old child sustained various degrees of injuries.

He blamed dangerous driving, wrongful overtaking and over speeding for the accident causes.

"These crashes mostly occurred at night

and occur due to over-speeding and dangerous overtaking at bends between Chikara, Awawa and Lokoja axis, which are all black spots," he said.

He said the command also witnessed eight crashes in the first and second weeks of October along the same road, adding that 23 persons sustained injuries that involved 13 vehicles.

The commander blamed burst tyres and dangerous overtaking as reasons for the crashes.

"At times, when FRSC officials arrest most of these drivers, they become violent on their steering and have nearly knocked down the officials on the road whenever they try to escape arrest," he said.

The FRSC commander however said officials are stationed at all identified black spots on the road, especially on Friday and Sunday.

He cautioned motorists to always drive safely and warned erring drivers that they will be prosecuted for violating traffic regulations.

In another development, one person died while five others sustained serious injuries last

Friday morning in a multiple accident that occurred at Sheda village, along Kwali-Lokoja road.

A witness said the accident happened around 9:24 pm and involved a Daf truck with registration number XA 999 BRA, a Toyota Hiace bus with registration number XU 386 BDG and an Iveco truck with registration number XM 398 AAA.

He said the Daf truck driver overtook another truck and crashed into a Toyota bus, killing a female passenger at the back seat of the bus.

Commenting on the incident, Yangoji FRSC Commander, Abdullahi Umar, said the corpse was deposited at the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital's morgue, while the injured are at Kwali General Hospital.

In a similar accident, a Federal Polytechnic Idah student, Godwin Agahilu, died Saturday at Kwaita village, along the same road, when an unmarked truck overtook another truck and crashed into a Peugeot car with registration number AG 225 KJM, killing one person

in the car.

A witness said that the student was flung out of the vehicle and landed on the road with his head.

Our reporter gathered from occupants in the car, that the student boarded the car at Zuba, and was travelling to Idah when the incident happened.

Commenting on the incident, Yangoji unit Commander, Abdullahi Umar, blamed the accident cause on wrongful overtaking. He said the student's corpse is at the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital's morgue, while the injured driver is at Kwali General Hospital.

At the hospital's mortuary, an attendant said the student's corpse has been claimed by his relatives.

Motorists spoken to called on the FCT Administration to provide ambulances to various FRSC units along Abuja-Lokoja road.

One of them criticized the manner in which dead and injured persons are displayed in open vans belonging to the police or FRSC and conveyed to the hospital.