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Wednesday, December 16, 2015



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Yuletide raises road crash concerns

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People shop for Christmas at the Balogun Market in Lagos yesterday.

In spite of efforts and assurances for an accident-free festive period by officials of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) Daily Trust findings show that road crashes persist along high ways across the federation. The performance report of the FRSC obtained by Daily Trust

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yesterday showed that about 2,395 crashes occurred between January 2015 and September 2015, while 2,273 was recorded for the whole of last year, though with lower casualty. The total number of deaths within the period stands at 1,376, however less than that of the entire 2014 which was 2,753.

Accident cases reported by our correspondents showed that since September when the FRSC stepped up their ember months campaign, over 16 auto crashes have killed over 30 people along the Abuja/Lokoja expressway. Statistics from the FRSC said over 490 auto crashes occurred across the country as at November, resulting in over 177 deaths.

The FRSC Benue State Sector Commander, Chidiebere Nkwonta, lamented the high traffic offences in the country and warned that corps operatives would no longer spare any traffic offender.

Four members of the same family were recently killed in a fatal accident along Abakwa village in Buruku LGA. In Kaduna, the FRSC Sector Commander, Mr. Francis Udoma, said seven people died in different road crashes while 114 were injured in road crashes within the past two weeks, though he said crashes had drastically reduced in the state.

Udoma noted that the commission would not relent in its efforts to change the driving culture of road users in the country.

"We always try to reduce accidents along roads in the state, the ember months are here and we are intensifying our campaign to have a hitch-free festive period which mostly occurs due to speed violation," he said.

Reports from Ekiti said nine persons died in 20 road crashes between September and December 11 this year, though against the 29 deaths recorded in 30 crashes within the same period last year. Sector Commander, Mr. Stanley Chinedum, said records showed that in September this year, one person died in seven road crashes, in October, six lost their lives in eight accidents while two died in seven road accidents recorded in November and as at December 11.

Twelve people recently died in an auto accident involving an 18-seater commercial bus and a DAF truck while six others were injured in Koko village in Omupo, Kwara State.

State commandant of the FRSC, Oladayo Ademoluti, advised motorists to be extra careful during the yuletide and beyond, saying they should avoid over loading, over speeding, and reckless overtaking.

The FRSC quoted a recent report by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as saying that 52,000 people had died in road crashes in Nigeria.

killings



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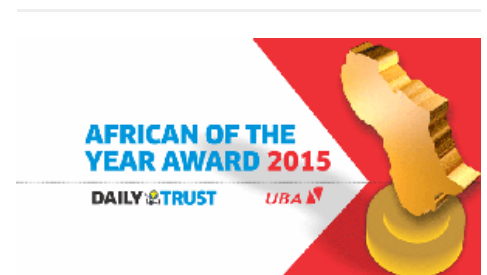
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