

25 die in Kogi accident

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FILE PHOTO: An accident scene.

Twenty five persons have been feared dead in a fatal accident which occurred at Felele on the Abuja-Lokoja highway.

The accident involved a fuel-laden tanker and an 18-seater bus.

Daily Trust reports that the two vehicles went up in flames consuming the occupants following the accident which occurred at about 1.30 pm on Friday, according to eyewitnesses.

Also affected in the raging inferno were about 10 cars parked by the road side.

An eyewitness, Bawasa Ibrahim said two tricycle riders popularly called Keke-NAPEP were equally burnt in the accident.

"The tanker and the 18-seater bus were trying to overtake each other. But unfortunately, the tanker lost balance and it fell on the bus.

"We have been complaining to the government to fix this road. Now you can see how many lives that have been lost. No fewer than 25 burnt bodies can be seen here", Ibrahim added.

Another eyewitness, Haruna Sadiq who sympathized with families of those who lost their lives said they have been calling on the fire authority for more than 20 minutes but they claimed there was no fuel in their vehicle.

"I am really disappointed with our firemen. We have been calling them that people are dying here, but all we could hear is that they don't have fuel. What a shame," he said.

He, however, appealed to the government to fix the road, saying that similar accident happened in the same spot where lives were lost recently.

Men of the fire service and those of the Federal Road Safety Corps arrived later at the scene to salvage the situation.

When contacted, Kogi State Sector Commander of FRSC, Mr Olusegun Martins who confirmed the accident said his men are still on rescue operation at the accident scene.

He however said that he could not confirm the casualty figures until his men were done with their operations.