

22 die in Kogi road crashes

From Adama John, Lokoja

Fourteen persons have died in an auto crash along Lokoja-Obajana road in Kogi State.

The accident, which occurred yesterday, involved a commercial bus and articulated truck conveying cement from Obajana.

Similarly, the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) has confirmed the death of eight persons in another motor accident in Kogi.

The casualty figure brings to 22, the number of people that lost their lives in road accidents in the state on Wednesday.

A statement from the state commissioner for Information and Communication, Kingsley Fanwo, said the state government sympathised with

the families of the victims.

He said men of the Federal Road Safety Corps have been alerted and bodies of the deceased have been evacuated from the scene of the accident.

Fanwo said, "The governor, government and people of Kogi State express deep sympathy over the demise of 14 passengers of a bus involved in a ghastly accident at Old Akpata, along Lokoja-Obajana Road today.

"It is indeed, a sad occurrence and a shame that we lost such promising souls in such a pathetic circumstance.

"As a government, we will strengthen our road safety measures to ensure that avoidable loss of lives is averted."

He called on the FRSC to intensify its surveillance along the roads and ensure that road users obey traffic laws and that only roadworthy vehicles ply the roads.

The state Sector Commander, Mr Solomon Aghure, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lokoja that the second crash occurred on Kabba-Ayere road at about 11:30 p.m.

He said that the accident involved a truck and a Toyota Hiace passenger bus with registration number Bauchi MSA 942 XA.

Aghure said that 25 people, comprising 22 men, two women and a female child were involved in the second accident, saying that eight of the men lost their lives instantly.

The sector commander said that 17 persons injured were taken to General Hospital, Kabba for treatment while corpses deposited in the morgue.

He blamed the accident on speed limit violation and dangerous driving.