

22 die, 28 injured in Kano, Kwara crashes

From Zahraddeen Yakubu Shuaibu, Kano & Mumini Abdulkareem, Ilorin

Twenty two people died while 28 others were injured in road crashes that occurred in Kano and Kwara states at the weekend.

At least 18 persons lost their lives while 12 others sustained injuries in an auto crash that occurred along the Kano-Ringim Road in Gabasawa Local Government Area of Kano State.

The Sector Commandant of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Ibrahim Abdullahi, confirmed that the accident occurred on Friday evening.

He said the accident involved two commercial vehicles and attributed the cause to excessive speeding, dangerous

driving and overloading.

"We received a call about the accident at about 8:35 p.m. on Friday and dispatched our personnel to the scene to rescue the victims," Abdullahi said.

"The accident involved a total of 35 passengers in two buses, out of which 18 were burnt beyond recognition while 12 others sustained serious injuries," he said.

According to him, while some of the deceased were given mass burial at the accident scene, others were handed over to their relatives.

Ibrahim said the injured victims were taken to Murtala Mohammed General Hospital, Kano.

He advised motorists to avoid over speeding, overloading, wrongful overtaking, dangerous driving and any infraction that could lead to road

crashes.

The sector commander expressed regret at the magnitude of avoidable road crashes recorded in Kano State in the past week.

During a visit to the crash scene on Saturday, he warned motorists, particularly intercity and inter-state drivers to desist from overloading, excessive speeding, wrongful overtaking and other traffic violations.

Abdullahi assured that the FRSC would intensify public enlightenment and undertake stringent patrol interventions, including operation of mobile courts to stem the rising tide of intercity auto crashes.

In a related development, four persons were killed and 16 others injured in a lone accident on Olooru-New Jebba Road in Moro Local Government Area of Kwara State on Friday.

The accident which occurred before Iyana Mama involved 35 people who were all males.

Speaking with *Daily Trust* on Sunday, the Sector Commander of the FRSC, Mr Frederick Ade Ogidan said the vehicle belongs to Chinese construction firm, CGC Construction Company.

He attributed the cause of the accident to speed violation.

According to him, other victims suffered varying degrees of bruises and fractures.

"It was a lone accident involving a white coloured FAW truck with 35 people on board belonging to a Chinese company.

"While the injured victims were taken to DAVICAYO hospital, Oloru for treatment, the four corpses have been claimed by their relatives," Ogidan added.