

13 killed, 2 injured in Kogi auto crash

From Tijani Labaran (Lokoja) & Maureen Onochie

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) said on Monday that 13 people died while two were injured in an auto crash in Kogi.

Mr Samuel Oyedeki, Kogi FRSC Sector Commander, said the incident occurred around 7:30pm on Sunday.

He disclosed that the accident involving a commercial Sharon bus and an articulated cement truck occurred by Obajana Market along Obajana-Lokoja Road in Lokoja Local Government Area of Kogi.

The sector commander said that the Sharon bus had packed behind a truck around the market for passengers to buy some things when the cement truck lost its brake and rammed

into it from behind.

"And as soon as the truck rammed into the bus, it immediately went into flame and burnt virtually all the passengers inside it.

"Also burnt were the bus, two trucks and a motorcycle.

The bus was reportedly heading to Abuja from the southern part of the country.

"Our personnel, who were on rescue operations with Red Cross Nigeria and police officers, couldn't save the situation due to the fierceness of the fire.

"But the charred remains of the affected persons were collected while the two injured persons have been taken to Fisayo Hospital, Obajana for medical attention."

He said all the hospitals

consulted to deposit the charred bodies of the accident victims refused to accept them, forcing the authorities to think of giving them a mass burial if no relative of any of the victims showed up. Oyedeki described the incident as "very sad and unfortunate", cautioning motorists against over speeding and poor maintenance of their vehicles.

Meanwhile, Corps Marshal, Federal Road Safety Corps, Dauda Biu has directed Kogi State Sector Commander of the corps to commence a detailed investigation that will lead to speedy prosecution of all the drivers responsible for the crash.

The directive was contained in a statement signed by Corps Public Education Officer,

Jonas Agwu, in reaction to the accident that killed scores of road users on Easter Sunday in Kogi State.

He said with the recent collaboration between the corps, the Nigerian Bar Association as well as state judiciaries, the drivers responsible for these occurrences will not go scot free.

He insisted that they were going to be prosecuted in accordance with the provisions of the National Road Traffic Regulations 2012 and those found guilty will bear the consequences of their actions.

Biu noted that preliminary reports indicated that the crash involved a total of four vehicles comprising of two Dangote trucks, one Sharon bus and one motor bike.

He reported that one of the Dangote truck's braking systems failed while on excessive speed and crashed into three stationery vehicles including a bus carrying 12 passengers.

According to him "The impact of the crash resulted in a fire outbreak that killed the 12 passengers in the bus and the motor bike rider.

"On the whole, the crash involved 15 people, eight male adults and three female adults, three male children and one female child. Unfortunately, 13 persons comprising six male adults, three male children, three female adults and one female child were killed while the remaining two victims got rescued by FRSC operatives without injuries."