

Five feared dead in Lagos road mishap

FIVE people were feared dead and several others injured in two separate accidents yesterday on the Third Mainland bridge.

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"We started complaining to the driver to slow down or do something, then the bus hit the barriers and hung precariously in the air.

"That was when some of us started jumping into the lagoon below."

He sustained injuries in his head, hands and legs when the vehicle crashed into the protective rails.

Further ahead at Olowu Bus stop near Obalende, another accident occurred about 8 a.m. The accident said to have occurred when one of the tyres of the vehicle bursts resulted in severe injuries to the passengers, some of

whom were taken to hospital.

Of the 10.00 a.m. incident, a Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) official who declined to give his name, said fishermen and the Red Cross team were searching for bodies in the lagoon.

He blamed the accidents, which caused serious traffic jam on the Third Mainland bridge on reckless driving and lack of proper maintenance of vehicles.

The Red Cross, Ikoyi branch Touring Officer, Mr. Ige Oladimeji, said they learnt of the accident about 12 noon, adding "we responded immediately but by the time we arrived, LASTMA officials had towed the vehicles away to ease traffic."

The state police com-

mand in quick response dispatched a team of marine policemen to the scene to prevent the bus plunging into the lagoon at the same time assisting in taking the victims to hospital.

The Police Spokesperson, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, a deputy superintendent of police said "the incident was unfortunate and the traffic unit of the force will investigate it."

The crash brings to about 10 of such incidents occurring on the Third Mainland bridge between January and July this year.

In one of such accidents, unconfirmed number of passengers on board a Toyota Hiace bus died inside the lagoon.

A police source said most of the accidents were caused by reckless driving.