

17 die in Ilorin-Jebba road mishap

SEVENTEEN persons died on Tuesday in a motor accident on Ilorin-Jebba Expressway. Fourteen of them were middle-aged women traders.

According to the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) Sector Commander for Kwara State, Mr. Peter Osawe, the victims were travelling in an 18-seater bus.

The bus, he said, had developed a mechanical fault, which forced it to a halt at a "dangerous road bend." An oncoming bus travelling at top speed subsequently rammed into the stationary vehicle.

Although the driver of the vehicle was rescued from the wreckage in an unconscious state, when *The Guardian* visited the Accident and Emergency unit of the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital (UITH), yesterday at noon, a medical officer on duty described his condi-

From Abiodun Fagbemi, Ilorin

tion as "stable, but yet to be completely stabilised."

According to the FRSC official, if proper road signs had been mounted by the driver of the bus, at least some 100 metres to the scene, it would have served as a warning to the on-coming driver.

He urged motorists plying the route to compulsorily acquire the triangular reflective signs "internationally approved for such danger warning", to save lives on the road.

Besides, Osawe advised drivers under his sector to adhere strictly to the approved speed limits, promising tougher actions against any erring driver. "irrespective of his status."

Sources said the victims of the accidents were "bush meat" sellers in Ilorin who were allegedly going to Aderin, a few kilometres from Jebba, to bring in new consignments. Five of them were, however, identified as sellers of goats.

When *The Guardian* visited the scene at 10:00 a.m. yesterday, traces of congealed human blood and other substances suspected to be lubricating oil, were noticed.

The UITH spokesperson, Mr. Oba Hassan Kadir, confirmed that the remains of the victims had been deposited at the mortuary wing of the hospital. Hassan was, however, sure of whom family members of the victims had been arriving to identify the bodies for burial.

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he said, seek elective positions, "but if they refuse to come out, don't complain about how the country is being run."

Iwu said he was encouraged by the likes of Adams Oshiomhole and Professor Pat Utomi, who have already declared their intentions to seek elective posts.

"These are people who will not normally want anything to do with politics, but the fact that they are now coming out means that we at INEC are not doing badly," he added.