

18 Perish In Auto Crash, FRSC Indifferent

From Niyi Bello, Akure

TWO weeks after an automobile accident claimed 15 lives on the Ilesa-Owo bypass of Akure, the Ondo State capital, a similar tragedy has struck again, and almost on the same spot, claiming 18 lives.

Like the previous, the accident, which occurred in the early hours of Saturday, involved commuters bound for Kano and Zamfara States, from Lagos.

Police spokesman, Adeniran Aremu, confirmed

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the death toll. He disclosed that the dead and injured have been taken to the Akure Specialist Hospital, even as investigation is said to have begun into cause of the mishap.

A survivor revealed that the accident occurred as the driver of an 18-seater bus, registered Lagos XA 966LSR, was trying to avoid hitting a woman, who cuddling a baby, unexpectedly dashed across the road. One of the

tyres of the bus burst, in the process, making the driver to lose complete control.

A survivor, who was receiving treatment at the hospital said that an oncoming luxurious bus registered, Abuja XR 521ABC, rammed into the bus, crushing almost all the occupants to death. Two passengers in the oncoming bus also lost their lives.

Efforts to get help from men of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) whose office was located

barely a kilometer from the scene proved abortive.

They were said to have claimed that they were resident officers attached to the office only and couldn't go to the scene unless they were instructed by their boss to do so.

The action of the men and allegations that the injured were denied treatment at the hospital because many could not procure registration cards, were said to have led to a rise in the death toll.