

25 Killed, 40 Injured On Lagos-Benin Road

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Despite the attempt by the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) and other relevant agencies, the spectre of death has begun to take its toll once again along the Lagos Benin expressway, with 25 people killed and 40 others wounded in the last two days.

The road is one of the busiest for East-bound passengers during each Yuletide, due to what is attributed to increased traffic in view of the rush for Christmas and New Year celebrations by people of the area.

The incident that claimed 22 lives, according to the Sector,

Commander of FRSC for Benin, Bulus Barwang, took place at about 6 p.m. on Thursday, while that in which three others died took place on Friday, adding that the injured have been taken to various hospitals in Benin, the Edo State capital where they are being treated.

He said in a statement that the Thursday incident involved a commuter bus coming from the East and a petrol tanker heading in a different direction, which was driving against traffic.

The bus, which had overtaken another vehicle, was said to have rammed into the tanker, which burst into flames, which caught up with the bus and roasted all the 22 passengers inside, with 18 of them

burnt beyond recognition.

In the other incident, the unit commander of the Benin Toll Gate Unit of the Commission, Uzor Chukwuma, who spoke on the incidents explained that those who died were passengers in a bus operated by Cross Country Transport Company, which was heading to Umuahia in Abia State, adding that about 10 persons with various degrees of injuries, were currently being treated at University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UNBTH).

Details of the accident show that they were on their way from Lagos when one of the tyres of the bus burst, causing it to veer off and somersault across the median to the other side of the road.

Chukwuma also blamed the fatality in the accident on excessive speed by the driver of the bus, and re-emphasised the need for drivers to resist the temptation of speed, especially during this Yuletide period.

The FRSC official further explained that the driver of bus told him that when the tyre burst and threw him into a distress, one of the passengers in the front seat went off his mind and held the steering and dragged it thereby facilitating further loss of control.

The said passenger who behaved strangely later boarded another bus and escaped from the scene of the accident soon after it happened, it was also revealed.