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“We may encounter many defeats, but we must not be defeated”— Maya Angelou

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Man In News



Babangida takes the plunge

A time comes in the cause of an endeavour

Weather in Abuja, Nigeria

Current Conditions:



33°C

Thunder

Wind: WSW 8 mph

MON	TUE	WED	THU
8/16	8/17	8/18	8/19
H:29 L:23	H:29 L:21	H:29 L:21	H:28 L:21

Last Update: 11:54:13 AM

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Cartoon for the day



Dozens die in Lagos trailer accident

•Over 15 vehicles involved •Driver was careless, says Lagos CP
By Joe Omokaro, Stella Odueme and Ajibola Abayomi, *Lagos*



The accident between the toll gate and Berger bus stop on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway ... on Sunday. Photo: Felix Elijah.

DOZENS of persons were roasted to death on Sunday in a multiple vehicle accident caused by policemen on stop and check duty between the toll gate and Berger bus stop at the Lagos end of the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

Eyewitnesses said the accident occurred at about 11 a.m. when policemen stopped a trailer in the middle of the road, leading to collisions from behind.

Over 15 vehicles were involved. Eight and all their passengers were burnt beyond recognition.

Policemen reportedly flagged down the trailer, and a car coming behind collided with it and burst into flames. Some of the other vehicles coming up somersaulted.

“When we saw what the policemen caused, we gathered and set their vehicle on fire and they all ran away until they re-enforced and came back,” an eyewitness narrated.

The trailer, owned by the Dangote Group and stocked with sugar, was heading to Kano.

The driver was among the dead.

His assistant, Aminu Seheedu Kano, said the trailer had a break failure and the driver was trying to manoeuvre around the traffic caused by the police check point when the accident happened.

According to him, if the police had allowed the road to be free the accident would have been averted.

“The driver struggled to find his way but unfortunately the road was blocked. There was collision and I was lucky to escape,” Kano said.

It took the spirited effort of a police squad from Area F with an armoured car and teargas to disperse the angry crowd that gathered to protest the conduct of the policemen.

Three of the protesters – Moruf Muritala, Omosetan Omorele, and Ibrahim Mommoh – accused the police of extortion on the road.

“I can’t imagine people simply because they are in uniform with arms forcing drivers to part with their hard earned money on the express road without any regard for the danger their action poses to human lives.

“See what they have caused now and they are using teargas to scare us away,” Muritala lamented.

The protesters urged the Inspector General of Police, Ogbonna Onovo, to call the Lagos police to order over extortion.

However, the Head of Lagos State Traffic Management Agency (LATsMA) Emergency Operation, Adisa Bassa, denied that the police mounted a check point at the scene.

“I was here at about 12 noon and no single policeman was here, they came after the accident occurred. So people blaming the police should be very careful,” he stated.

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Is the recent slashed N6.39b budget for Nigeria @ 50 adequate?

- ☐ Not adequate, add to it.
- ☐ Yes, it is adequate.
- ☐ No, further reduce it.

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But survivors of the accident, Isaac Ejeuvwevwo and Lattif Bello, faulted the claim.

Ejeuvwevwo said: "I was on my way to Warri with my new, yet to be registered car (Toyota Rav4). We were in a traffic hold up caused by the police when all of a sudden the trailer ran into us; I had to run for my life when fire burst out."

Bello, who owns a Peugeot car marked LAGOS XN68 EPE, wondered where Bassa was when the accident occurred.

"The police were the ones who blocked the road and in the process, the trailer barged in.

"This is a very terrible thing in this country; the police have to be cautioned. Nigerians are not safe with illegal check points," Bello maintained.

Police Commissioner Marvel Akpoyibo sympathised with the families of the deceased but blamed the trailer driver over the break failure.

He argued that "if you are driving on a highway and you see many vehicles, what you do is apply the break. So if the driver fails to apply break or had break failure, he should be blamed."

An official of the Lagos State Emergency Agency (LASEMA), Oluwafemi Oke-Osanyintolu, said 25 persons died and 27 survived.

But eyewitnesses said the casualty figure was about 60.

On July 13 in the neighbouring state of Oyo, about 40 persons died in an auto crash on the Ibadan-Ife Expressway and were buried in a mass grave.

Osun State House of Assembly Speaker, Adejare Bello, lost his pilot vehicle, and he and his family members narrowly escaped death, an act he attributed to the divine protection of God.

The tragedy occurred in Asejire, on the border of Oyo and Osun States, when eight vehicles and a fuel tanker which burst into flames burnt about 40 persons to ashes.

The Toyota Hilux pilot vehicle in the convoy of Bello was burnt beyond recognition, but all the occupants escaped.

The driver of the tanker, coming from Ibadan, lost control and the vehicle crossed over to the lane from Osogbo.

The petrol it spilled on the road caught fire. Vehicles coming from Osogbo ran into the flames.

Trailers were also involved in road accidents in Lokoja and Benin on March 9, which led to the death of 104 persons.

About 100 of them were crushed to death in multiple crashes caused by the driver of a trailer who lost control at the Lokoja New Market.

The victims, mostly traders and passengers, were killed when the trailer belonging to the Dangote Group and loaded with cement had break failure and ran into the traders and 14 oncoming vehicles, including passenger buses and five motorcycle taxis.

The tragedy occurred at about noon when the market was at its peak, and threw the city into confusion as thousands of people rushed to the scene to check for relatives.

In Benin on the same day, four persons were killed by a trailer at the popular Uselu Market on the Ugbowo-Lagos Road.

The Mack trailer, marked XG 633 BEN, had break failure and the driver wanted to avoid running into the market when it swerved to the opposite direction.

The four persons crushed included a young man, two motorcycle riders – and a woman named Rita Oshawo, a nurse, whose husband and children were waiting on the other side of the road.



Views:1805

Article Comments

(8 comments)

On Mon Aug, 16 2010 08:34 by Eyakndue

Every one shares the blame, the driver who unfortunately was saddled with faulty brakes, our uniformed 'road blockers' and those who spend billions repairing imaginary roads but not real ones. While the buck passes from one table to the other, people continue to die deaths that could easily have been averted. Sad indeed

On Mon Aug, 16 2010 08:31 by Mrs shafi

MR Opeifa the minister for transport. I hope you will use your experience in leaving in USA and question yourself. What would the minister do in UK and USA to these companies like Dangote and other transporter who chose to ignore their fleet maintenance. Do we have road Hard shoulder for police officer's to pull cars and Lorries at check points instead of blockage of Motoway? Can police not use their car to flash cars and lorry that needs checks. The Tanker should not have been on the road as it was unfit. Lagos state government can make revenue on this tankers when they come to Lagos with badly maintained vehicle, check their service records, set up Mechanic centre and carry out these repairs and charge the company double. Employment would be generated. Also generate a funding to cover better salary for the police. MR Bassa would not be needed at the check points with his staffs. hence, this same Tanker could have had it break failure towards kano and killed other drivers on

On Mon Aug, 16 2010 06:16 by Olutoyin Adeyinka-Eweje

I wonder the responsibility of the minister for roads and transport if people are dying every hour despite huge sums voted for roads rehabilitation and maintenance. What is wrong with this Country? What leadership structure should we expect in 2011? Please ponder on this. I am tired of reading how people lose their lives on road accidents and the government is keeping quiet as if nothing is amiss. God Save my country.

On Mon Aug, 16 2010 05:48 by Washington