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30 killed in Kogi auto crash

Written by <u>newsadmin</u> on January 7, 2012 in <u>News</u> - <u>No</u> <u>comments</u>

By Baba Negedu, Reporter, Kaduna, and Olufemi Yahaya, Lokoja

NO fewer than **30** people mainly Northerners, who left South heading to the North, lost their lives at Okene, **Kogi** State on Friday morning when a fully loaded trailer ran into a gully.

It was gathered that the victims were those running away from likely reprisal attacks that may greet the chaos currently going in the Northern part of the country and many of them

were said to sustained serious injury during the accident.

Report has it that the articulated vehicle was fully loaded with people who had left one of the Southern states and lost control as a result of brake failure.

An eye witnessed account disclosed that the accident occurred at about 9a.m. at Obangede Junction, Ogaminana, very close to a Police station.

The sources added that the articulated vehicle lost control immediately the trailer got to the junction, killing all the passengers in the gully.

Policemen on duty during the incident and members of Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) were at hand to rescue the injured and carry them to hospital in Okene while the dead were evacuated to Obangede Specialist Hospital mortuary.

It was gathered that the passengers left Onisha and heading to the North due to the problem presently rocking the country.

When the FRSC was contacted, the **Kogi** State Sector Command, Mr. Sunday Maku, said they were yet to receive report from the unit command.

Also, management, staff and members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Kaduna State, have been thrown into serious mourning as the state command lost five of its workers in five days.

Trouble started when the NYSC local government inspector for Kaduna North Local Government, Anthony Chechet

Gora, died in a motor accident on his way from the Christmas and New Year festivities on January 2.

As was customary, the state Command of NYSC sent its staff to attend the burial ceremony and commiserate with the family of Chechet.

It was on their way back from the burial at Gora, Zango Kataf, that another motor incident involving a Kaduna State Transport Authority (KSTA) bus **killed** four members of staff of NYSC.

Saturday Independent gathered that the dead include Emmanuel Gwary, Daniel Yakubu, Mrs. Rhoda Akwoi and another simply identified as Malam, while others who were seriously injured are receiving treatment at the St Gerald Catholic Hospital, Kakuri, Kaduna.

Director General of the NYSC, Brig. Gen. Nnamdi Okore-Affia, who was at the hospital to commiserate with the families of the diseased and those receiving treatment, described the incident as unfortunate.

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