

Fashola, others rescue accident victims

GOVERNOR Babatunde Fashola of Lagos State yesterday on the Lagos-Ibadan expressway, led the rescue operation for victims of an accident that claimed one live and left 15 injured.

The accident, which occurred around OPIC Estate, at 4.50pm involved a 14-seater Hiace commuter bus with registration number XD 559-UMA.

On Eko Bridge, in the heart of Lagos, a motorcyclist was feared killed yesterday after

By Sunday Oguntola

he was hit by a motorist, and flung into marshy bank of the lagoon at Ijora-Olopa.

The vehicle, which belonged to Ceefoeak Transport Nigeria Limited, was reportedly coming from Umuahia, Abia State, when it somersaulted as it neared the Lagos-Berger bus stop.

According to eyewitnesses, the driver who sustained no injuries, was overspeeding and lost control. Our correspondent, who saw the vehicle somersault three

times before scaling the divider to land on the other end of the road.

As it somersaulted, one of the passengers, who was sitting close to the door, was thrown out of the vehicle and he landed on the express concrete with a bang. Though he gasped for several minutes, he died before help could reach him.

Sympathisers, who gathered immediately watched helplessly, as those who sustained serious injuries bled and cried for assistance. Attempts to halt

commercial and private car owners to take them to hospitals failed..

A woman was seen wailing helplessly as she watched her husband dying. Kind-hearted sympathisers approached the victims, many of whom were too tired to speak for phone contacts of relations to pick them.

A victim who identified himself as Ilesanmi Jonah simply lay on the ground, unable to recall any phone contact. He claimed his mobile phones had been lost to the accident.

As sympathisers ran helter skelter, in a frantic bid, to get help for those writhing in serious pain, our correspondent sighted two police vehicles, which stopped close to the scene. But before people could breathe a sigh of relief, they sped off after the uniformed occupants merely had a look at the victims.

With hope giving way to despair, a siren-blowing convoy arrived the scene. Sympathisers ignored the arrivals owing to the last experience.