18 burnt to death in Edo road crash



IGHTEEN passengers were yesterday burnt to death in an accident at Okada town on the Benin-Lagos-Ore road.

The victims included two children, 15 adults and a truck driver's assistant.

The accident caused a traffic gridlock as there was construction work on one lane.

The accident involved a heavy Mack truck loaded with gravel and a Toyota bus belonging to Peace Mass Transit Company Limited.

Edo State Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) Kenneth Nwaegbe confirmed the accident. He said many children, who survived, have been taken to the hospital for treatment.

Nwaegbe said: "It was not really a collision. The Mack truck was carrying gravel from Ore to Benin when it lost a tyre. The bus was coming from Benin and heading to Lagos when volving a commercial Mazda the two collided.

"The truck's tyre burst and

 Six die on Lagos-Ibadan Expressway • FRSC: six dead in Abuja

From Osagie Otabor, Benin and Oseheye Okwuofu. ibadan

it lost control in the process and rammed into the bus."

Rescue operation was carried out by men of the FRSC from the Tollgate unit command and policemen from Okada police station, including some sympathisers.

Coordinator of Save Accident Victims of Nigeria Eddy Ehikhamenor said all the victims were burnt beyond recognition.

He said spilled fuel from one of the vehicles exploded and resulted in the fire.

In Oyo State, there was a tragedy on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway when six people were killed in an accident inbus and a truck.

The bus, with registration

number OYO XE 675 LUY, was said to have veered off the road and ran into a stationary truck, with registration number LA-GOS XX 45 GGE by the roadside.

The crash occurred late afternoon yesterday near a private quarry company on Km114 Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

Six passengers -four men and two women- died on the spot. FRSC Assistant Corps Commander, Oluyole Unit 1, Sanya Adeoye said: "The unit in conjunction with the rescue team of the state ambulance service and team of Operation Burst were around to rescue the victims."

Adeoye said the remains of the victims were deposited at the Adeoyo State Hospital morgue, Ring Road, Ibadan.

"The bus veered off the road and hit the stationary truck by

the side of the road. We could not ascertain the cause of the crash but we strongly suspect there was a mechanical deficiency that made the bus driver veer off the road.

"In all, 14 passengers were involved, six died - four men and two women. Their bodies have been deposited at the morgue. The victims are receiving treatment at the University College Hospital, Ibadan," he said

Also, six people died in an accident on the Gwagwalada-Abaji road in the Federal Capital Territory yesterday.

FRSC Sector Command Kayode Olagunju in a Facebook post said the accident occurred at Yangoji at 16.00 hours.

It involved an Opera Vectra car and a Toyota Camry.

Four men and two women died; three people were injured.

The bodies have been deposited at the Kwali General Hospital and the University of Abuja morgues, the FRSC official

Four robbery suspects escape from police custody

TOUR suspects implicated in the Agbor bank robbery have escaped from police

From Okungbowa Aiwerie, Asaba

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