

TRANSPORTATION

* 20 die on Ijebu-Ode-Benin road in one month

NO fewer than 20 persons have been killed in accidents on the Ijebu-Ode-Ore-Benin Expressway in the past four weeks, the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) has said.

The crashes were caused by inter-state commercial bus drivers, who were in the habit of driving against the traffic (one-way), around the Ijebu-Itele area of the expressway.

By Adeyinka Aderibigbe

The Ijebu Ode FRSC RS2.21 Unit Commander, Isa Seidu, expressed worry over the recklessness of commercial bus drivers on the route.

According to him, several other persons were also injured in the crashes. He said the drivers had, by their care-free attitude, sent innocent persons to untimely graves.

He added that the reckless driving by the luxury bus drivers was

usually perpetrated at night when FRSC officials must have left the highway.

"Last Monday, around 4.15am, an accident occurred involving a Toyota Hiace bus with number plate, EPE 304 XB, which drove against the traffic. It had a head-on collision with an oncoming vehicle.

"The culprit was heading from Lagos to the eastern part of the country and faced those coming

from Ore area at the Ijebu-Itele end of the expressway. The accident resulted in the death of five occupants of the vehicle, while six persons were critically injured," he said.

Seidu added that the command had deployed plain clothes officers in the expressway to arrest erring motorists.

He said: "Driving against the traffic is totally prohibited and unacceptable. Anyone found

guilty shall be arrested and prosecuted.

"The fact that a portion of the road is bad is not enough reason to take one-way. The bad road itself doesn't cause accident but bad driving habit."

The unit commander added that transport owners whose vehicles ply the road have been warned to caution their drivers.

He advised travellers to avoid night journeys.

Pain gains of