

Five feared dead in Lagos accident

Five persons were feared dead while several others sustained injuries yesterday in Lagos when an LT Volkswagen commercial bus, fully loaded with passengers, lost control and somersaulted on Eko Bridge.

Eyewitnesses said five persons died in the mishap which they ascribed to recklessness on the part of the driver of the vehicle. "The dead victims might be more, but I counted five bodies at the scene of the incident," one of the eyewitnesses said.

However, spokesman of the National Emergency Management Authority (NEMA), Ibrahim Farinloye, who confirmed the incident, said only three persons were injured.

The badly damaged vehicle was coming from CMS/Apongbon axis and was heading for Orile-Mile 2 through Costain when the incident occurred.

Some of the passengers who luckily escaped unhurt said the driver of the bus was on high speed when another careless driver tried to change lane, thereby causing their driver to lose control of his vehicle.

"It was when our driver tried to avoid the other vehicle – a private bus – that our vehicle climbed the road breaker that demarcated the bridge and it somersaulted thrice. Some passengers died while others, including me, were seriously injured," one of the lucky passengers said.

Efforts to speak with the driver of the commercial bus failed as he was taken into a LASAMBUS (Ambulance) that took away the other injured passengers, while another ambulance was used to carry the dead bodies to the General Hospital, Lagos Island.

The wreckage of the bus was towed away by officials of the Lagos State Transport Management Authority (LASTMA).

Police spokesperson, Ngozi Braide, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), could not be reached for comments on the incident.