

# 20 die in Plateau, Lagos-Ibadan expressway crashes

**T**WENTY people lost their lives on Saturday in both Ogun and Plateau states during road crashes.

In Ogun, 10 people died in a predawn auto crash that occurred at Oniworo stretch of Lagos-Ibadan expressway.

The accident which happened around 4.30am also left two persons with varying degrees of injuries while seven came out of the wreckage unscathed.

It was learnt that a total of 19 persons were involved in the crash which comprised 13 male adults and six female adults.

Witnesses said the driver of a Toyota Hiace bus with registration number KLD539XA, lost control of the vehicle and rammed into the rear of an unmarked Mack container truck parked by the roadside.

Florence Okpe, Superintendent Route Commander and Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) Public Education Officer for Sector Commander, Ogun State Sector Command, Ahmed Umar, who confirmed the accident, attributed the accident to road obstruction on the part of the truck and excessive speed by the driver of the Toyota

Ernest Nwokolo, Abeokuta & From Kolade Adeyemi, Jos

bus which led to the loss of control and ramming into the truck at the rear.

She added that the injured victims were taken to Victory Hospital Ogere for medical attention while the remains of the dead were deposited at Ipara morgue.

Okpe quoted the Sector Commander as being pained that motorists were in the habit of flouting some simple traffic rules which are meant to save the lives of people.

According to her, the Sector Commander FRSC Ogun urged motorists to take cognisance of poor visibility due to harmattan haze and put on the headlamp when the weather is hazy, even as he cautioned the truck drivers for non-display of caution signs whenever there was a breakdown on the road.

**10 PDP supporters feared dead, scores injured in auto crash in Mangu LGA**

The People's Democratic

Party (PDP) governorship campaign flag-off in the Central Senatorial Zone of Plateau State was nearly marred on Saturday when a truck conveying party supporters from Pankshin, after the rally, crashed.

The unfortunate incident happened at a place close to Panyam Bridge, Mangu LGA, with no fewer than 10 persons feared dead.

The incident was said to have happened at about 4.30 p.m.

The source further told The Nation that several other persons sustained various degrees of injuries.

It will be recalled that over 15 members of the PDP, in Plateau State, last Tuesday, narrowly escaped death on their way to the flag-off campaign of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) candidate in the forthcoming governorship election, Caleb Mutfwang. The bus on which they were travelling had an accident.

Those injured are currently receiving treatment in various hospitals in the state.

Reacting to the accident, Mutfwang's media aide, Mangna Yusuf Wamyil, in a statement said, "On a sad note, a truck conveying some supporters of the People's Democratic Party, (PDP), from the gubernatorial campaigns flag-off and zonal rally of the Central Zone, Plateau State, in Pankshin, had an accident this evening after the rally, around Jwak Village, just before Panyam Bridge, Mangu Local Government Area (LGA).

"The supporters, who were mostly young people, sustained injuries of varying proportions, while some regrettably lost their lives.

"Barr. Caleb Mutfwang (BCM) is deeply saddened by the unfortunate event, and he is currently involved in evaluating those severely injured.

"While we appreciate all first responders who are currently assisting with the evacuation effort, our thoughts and prayers are with all the families affected by the sad event.

"May the souls of those we lost rest in peace," the statement said.