

Sallah tragedy: 19 die, five injured in Kwara auto crash

THE Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) yesterday confirmed 19 people dead in a motor accident in Kwara State 72 hours to Eid-el-Kabir.

The accident occurred at about 8pm on Thursday at Kanbi village, on Jebba Road in Kwara State.

Security is being beefed up across the country ahead of the festivities.

Monday and Tuesday have been declared as public holidays by the Federal Government to mark the festival.

Giving details of the Jebba Road accident yesterday, FRSC's spokesman, Corps Commander Olusegun Ogungbemi, said two vehicles, a blue Iveco trailer with no registration and a white Toyota Hiace bus with registration number LSD363YE were involved.

Preliminary investigation suggested excessive speed and wrongful overtaking as causes of the accident, the FRSC spokesman said.

He said: "A total of 25 people were involved, comprising 13 male adults, five female adults, two female children and five male children.

"From this number, five people were injured (three male adults and two female adults), and 19 victims killed (11 male adults, three female adults, three male children and two female children).

"The injured victims have been rescued to Orisun Ayo Hospital. One corpse was deposited at the morgue of the same hospital while the remaining 18 dead bodies were claimed by the families of the deceased."

He quoted FRSC Corps Marshal, Shehu Mohammed, as expressing "displeasure over the alarming rate of recklessness of drivers who have continued to contravene established traffic regulations and causing undue harm to lives and unprecedented destruction to properties."

"In line with his 2024 agenda for drastic reduction in road carnages, the Corps Marshal has directed Commanding Officers to intensify special patrol operations against these identified violations," he added.

15 people injured in Lagos motor accident - LASEMA

A separate motor accident in Lagos yesterday left about 15 passengers injured, according to the State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) Permanent Secretary, Dr Olufemi Oke-Osanlyintolu.

The multiple accident occurred at Ketu, inward Ojota.

He said the accident involved a BRT bus with registration number EXY-167XY, an articulated truck with unknown registration number and an 18-seater commercial bus with registration number JJJ-439YG.

The articulated truck was laden with a 40-foot container.

He said: "Further investigations revealed that the articulated truck, while heading inward Ketu, suddenly lost control on motion."

The truck reportedly skidded off its lane and collided with the BRT bus headed inward Ojota from the opposite direction.

"The BRT subsequently skidded off its lane into the service lane and collided with the yellow commercial bus."

"Fifteen people were injured. No critical injuries were sus-

•15 others injured in Lagos

•FRSC deploys breathalysers to curb drunk driving

•EG declares Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th June public holidays

•Tinubu to observe Eid-el-Kabir festival in Lagos



•Rams and goats sellers waiting for customers at Meiran, Lagos, yesterday. Photos Isaac Jimoh Ayodele

By Musa Umar Bologi/
Gbenga Omokhunu, Abuja/
Osagie Otabor, Akure/ Chris
■ Njoku, Owerri/ Toba ■
Adedeji, Osogbo

tained and no fatalities were recorded.

"The BRT bus suffered significant damage to the front and rear ends and the tractor head of the truck was also damaged," he said.

He added that the injured victims were taken to nearby hospitals for treatment.

"Four of the victims were attended to by the agency's pre-hospital care team alongside the Lagos State Ambulance Service at the incident's scene."

FRSC deploys 184 officers, 743 patrol vehicles, 92 ambulances, 200 mobile courts

To minimise mishaps on the roads during the festivities, the organisation said yesterday that it would be deploying 184 personnel, 743 patrol vehicles, 184 administrative vehicles, 92 ambulances, 23 tow trucks and 144 motorbikes as parts of logistics for the special operations.

Also being deployed are tyre pressure gauges, extricating machines and digital breathalysers.

Corps Marshal Mohammed told reporters in Abuja that the special operation was designed to reduce road traffic crashes, fatalities, injuries, provide prompt response to road traffic

crash victims and speedy removal of obstructions from the highways, among others.

He added that 15 traffic control camps were dedicated solely to identifying traffic gridlock areas to be manned by FRSC personnel on 24-hour basis.

His words: "In achieving the objectives of the special operations, the corps will combine the engagement of the motor-imping public through purposeful and impactful public education programmes, strengthening of surveillance activities to regulate unprofessional excesses, sustained effective patrol operations as well as adequate monitoring on the highways."

Over 200 mobile courts are also being provided to check road traffic offences.

He said beyond the Eid-el-Kabir celebration, the corps would deploy more technology that would reduce the interface between drivers and FRSC personnel.

The corps marshal said more personnel would also be deployed on the highways to check drivers' excesses, especially those using trailers to convey both human beings and animals.

Tinubu arrives Lagos for Eid-el-Kabir celebration

President Bola Tinubu arrived Lagos yesterday from Abuja to celebrate the festival with his family, friends and associates.

His spokesman, Ajuri

Ngelale, said earlier yesterday that the President "will mark the occasion with prayers and reflection on advancing the transformation of Nigeria in line with his Renewed Hope Agenda."

Police deploy explosive experts at FCT prayer grounds, others.

The Federal Capital Territory Police Command is deploying material and human resources across the city ahead of the Eid-el-Kabir celebration.

Specifically, explosive ordinance device experts and personnel have been attached to various prayer grounds, recreational centres and event centres.

The command's spokesperson, Josephine Adeh, said the command would conduct raids on unidentified black spots and uncompleted buildings/shanties among others.

She noted that the measures were meant to ensure peace in the FCT before, during and after the celebration.

Adeh hinted that there would be diversion points for road users near Eid grounds.

"Worthy of note are diversion points in the territory, some of which include diversion point around Eid ground by Airport Interchange to Games Village and Jabi by Airport Road into the main city," she added.

NSCDC deploys 47,000 personnel across Nigeria

The Commandant General

of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) Ahmed Audi yesterday announced the deployment of over 47,000 personnel nationwide to provide security coverage and protection for citizens during the Sallah celebration.

Audi said the personnel would also ensure that critical national assets and infrastructures are protected during and after the festive season.

He spoke at a meeting with the top management team of the NSCDC at the National Headquarters in Abuja.

The mass deployment, he said, was to justify the confidence the citizens placed in the Corps, and the need to live up to expectations by ensuring that every nook and cranny of the country is adequately secured and protected.

The CG directed all Zonal Commanders and State Commandants to ensure adherence to operational order, standard operating procedure and code of conduct as they work tirelessly to maintain peace and order in their domains.

He ordered that all critical national assets and infrastructure must be jealously safeguarded while massive arrests should be carried out on vandals and economic saboteurs.

In Ono State, NSCDC and the State Security Network codenamed Amotekun Corps will deploy over 2,000 of their personnel with the Amotekun launching "Operation Safe-ground", 24 hour patrol across the state, while the FRSC in Imo State is putting 732 of its personnel on duty during the period.

They include 369 regular marshals and 363 special marshals who will man the roads for eight days effective yesterday.

Senior police officers and detectives - plain clothes personnel - have also been assigned to flashpoints across Ogun State to ensure security of life and property during and after the Ileya Muslim festival.

The Command said it has taken cognizance of the fact that the state will experience an inflow and outflow of people during this period of Muslim faithful celebration and took the measure to sustain the relative peace.

EG declares Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th public holidays

The Federal Government yesterday declared Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th June as

public holidays to mark the festival which comes up across the globe on Sunday.

Interior Minister Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo who announced the public holidays congratulated all Muslim Ummah both at home and in the Diaspora on the occasion.

He called on the Muslim Ummah to continue to imbibe the spirit of peace, kindness and sacrifice as exemplified by Prophet Ibrahim (Peace be upon Him) and to also use the period to pray for unity, prosperity and the stability of our country.

The Minister, in a statement signed by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Dr Aishetu Ndayako, pledged the commitment of the Tinubu administration to safeguarding the lives and property of all Nigerians.

While wishing the Muslim Ummah a happy Eid-ul-Adha celebration, the Minister advised all Nigerians to take responsibility in the resolve to hand over a prosperous Nigeria to our children.

Sultan of Sokoto greets world pilgrims, Muslims on Arafat, Eid-el-Adha

The President General Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) and Sultan of Sokoto, His Eminence Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar, has congratulated Muslims from all over the world, who are gathered in Minna in Makkah, Saudi Arabia, preparatory to Arafat, the main core of Hajj rites, today.

The Sultan urged the over one million Muslim pilgrims to use their period on and around Mount Arafat today to pray for the peace of the world.

He asked the pilgrims to pray for good and God-fearing leaders to lead the affairs of respective nations around the globe, including African continent and Nigeria, so that the creatures of Allah under their care will live secured lives devoid of hunger and hardship.

The Sultan, who congratulates both the pilgrims and Muslims who are not performing Hajj but celebrating Eid-el-Adha, prayed that all nations of the world will be free from the evils of terrorism, barbarism and various diseases that are inimical to the progress and development of global environment.

He particularly prayed for the peace of Palestine and Nigeria, while expressing confidence that, "If all of us can shun evils, fear Allah and do what is right all the times, our nation Nigeria, continent of Africa and our world of man will be better and great again."

Muslim faithful lament high cost of rams, pepper in Osun

As Muslims embark on last-minute shopping for the festival, residents of Osun State have been complaining about the high cost of ram and ingredient.

The prices of rams at popular markets in Osogbo, the state capital, ranged between N350,000 and N450,000 for big ones and between N150,000 and N250,000 for the medium sized.

The ram markets visited include Stadium, Testing ground, Power Line, Stadium, Ayegbaju, Owode-Ede, Igbona and Oke Baale.

A buyer, Yusuf Sikiru, said: "We are in a very tight corner this year. The prices of rams are on the high side. Same goes for tomatoes and pepper."

Tinubu okays reconstituted tertiary institutions' governing councils

•Akande, Yuguda, Olanipekun, Emordi among appointees

■ From Bolaji Ogundele, Abuja ■

(OSCF).

"President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has approved the reconstitution of the governing councils and boards of federal universities, polytechnics, and colleges of education for the effective management of Nigerian tertiary institutions across the country," the statement said.

The new appointment followed a directive from President Tinubu to review and reconstitute the earlier list of council members which had been criticized by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and other stakeholders for alleged lopsidedness.

Among the appointees are Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Wole Olanipekun, who will chair the council of Lagos University (UNILAG); and former Governor of Bauchi State, Isa Yuguda, appointed to lead the governing council of the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN).

Also, former Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Yayale Ahmed, will chair the council of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria (ABU).

Additionally, former Senator Joy Emordi has been appointed to chair the council of the Alvan Ikoku Federal University of Education in Owerri, Imo State.

The list comprises five names each for 51 universities, 35 polytechnics, and 22 colleges of

education.

The appointments aim to ensure effective management of Nigerian tertiary institutions and reflect President Tinubu's commitment to enhancing the governance of these educational institutions across the country.

The appointments are coming at a critical time when the education sector is undergoing significant reforms to address various challenges facing the system.

The newly appointed members of the Governing Councils and Boards are expected to bring their expertise and experience to bear in steering the affairs of these institutions towards achieving their educational mandates.