19 die, eight injured in Kogi road crash



- Ododo mourns accident victims
- •Mopamuro council boss issues executive order to regulate gathering

No fewer than 19 persons died while eight others were injured in an auto crash on Sunday on the Lokoja-Obajana Road, Kogi State.

The Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Kumar Tsukwam, confirmed the accident.

Tsukwam said some of the survivors sustained injuries.

He said among the dead were five children.

He explained that the accident occurred around 4 p.m at Gadabiu community of the state.

According to him, the accident involved an articulated vehicle and a Toyota Hummer Bus heading to Abuja.

He said the bus which he alleged to be on high speed, while attempting to overtake another vehicle, collided with the articulated vehicle travelling in the opposite direction.

His words: "It was very unfortunate, because it was caused by speeding and wrongful overtaking and involved 27 persons with only eight survivors.

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"Our rescue operation team and the police were able to rescue the eight survivors and rushed them to Fisayo Hospital, Obajana for immediate medical attention."

The commander appealed to motorists to keep to traffic rules and regulations and avoid speeding.

Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, has expressed sorrow over the road accident.

Ododo described the incident as a loss, not only to the families of the victims but to the whole state.

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Special Adviser to the governor on Media, Ismaila Isah, called for stricter enforcement of regulations and discipline by road users.

The governor said: "Losing 19 lives, including innocent children, in one accident is a tragedy for which words cannot fully express our grief. Our hearts are heavy and thoughts and prayers are with the families affected, and we must take urgent steps to prevent such sorrowful occurrences. Every life matters, and no journey is worth the risk of over speeding."

Ododo commended the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) and Nigeria Police for responding swiftly to the accident and rescuing the survivors.

Meanwhile, Chairman of Mopamuro Local Government, Ademola Bello, has issued an Executive Order, his spokesman, Olowu Juwon, said to empower security agencies to regulate public gatherings and prosecute anyone who violates the order.