

Bus driver arraigned over dangerous driving

A 30-YEAR-old luxury bus driver, Fidelis Ogbonna, has been arraigned before a Lokoja Chief Magistrate's Court for causing the death of five persons through dangerous driving.

Ogbonna of 127, Iweka road, Onitsha, was arraigned on Friday for causing death by dangerous driving, contrary to section 23 of Road Traffic Law.

He was alleged to have left his lane, while driving a luxury bus with registration number

Anambra XA 322 NKK, on Sept. 7, and run into a lorry marked Plateau XA 660 BUU.

The lorry was coming in the opposite direction, at Shagari Village along Okene-Lokoja-Abuja highway.

As a result of the collision, Police First Information (FIR) revealed that four passengers in the bus and an occupant of the lorry died on the spot.

On arraignment, the Prosecuting Police Officer, Mr. Paul

Elaigwu, told the court that investigation into the case was still in progress.

He said upon completion of investigation, the case file would be duplicated and sent to the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) for legal advice and applied for an adjournment.

The Chief Magistrate, Mr. Sam Atsumbe, then adjourned the case to Dec. 11, and also granted bail to the accused person in the sum of 25,000 Naira.

Atsumbe further asked the accused person to produce a surety, who must be resident with the jurisdiction of the court.

He explained that he had examined the circumstances of the accident, which involved the loss of five lives and happened about two months ago, adding that the accused had been in detention since then.

The chief magistrate said he had to exercise a measure of his discretion in granting the bail.