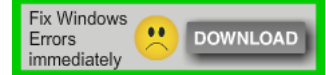


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16 die, 56 injured in Lagos accidents during Yuletide - FRSC

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The Lagos State command of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) on Friday said 16 people died in 22 road accidents during the Yuletide.

The state Sector Commander, Mr Chidi Nkwonta, disclosed this in Lagos.

Nkwonta added that 56 people were injured in various accidents which occurred between December 19 and January 1.

He added that the command booked 2,206 offenders for 2,443 traffic offences in its end-of-the-year special patrol on four major highways.

According to him, the highways, which fell within the jurisdiction of the Lagos State command, are Lagos-Ibadan, Lagos-Abeokuta, Lekki-Epe and Badagry Expressways.

Nkwonta said that the number of deaths recorded were fewer when compared to previous years, which he attributed to the success of the 'Operation Zero Tolerance' introduced to reduce road crashes.

He further said that nine lives were lost on **December 21** along Lekki-Epe axis, while the other **seven died along Lagos-Ibadan Expressway** and other routes.

"Basically fewer lives were lost this year due to massive deployment of my officers.

"A total of 2, 500 officers were deployed; we also received supports from individuals and corporate bodies.

"We organise series of public enlightenment campaigns and motor parks rallies to educate motorists on careful driving during the festive period.

"Unfortunately, we had the first major crash on December 21, along Lekki-Epe route, which claimed nine lives.

"Apart from this, we had a few other crashes which claimed seven lives," the FRSC boss said.

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