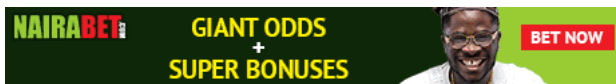


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8 killed, 3 injured as passenger bus rams into stationary tipper on Third Mainland bridge (/8-killed-3-injured-as-passenger-bus-rams-into-stationary-tipper-on-third-mainland-bridge)

June 16, 2016

Written by: Opeyemi Owoaseye

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Scene of the accident

EIGHT people were killed in an accident after a vehicle rammed into a sand tipper on Third Mainland bridge, on Wednesday.

The fatal accident was said to have happened at about 11.30 p.m.

It was learnt that the vehicle was on a full speed when it rammed into the stationary sand tipper, with most part of the vehicle completely written off.

It was also learnt that while eight people were confirmed dead, three were rushed to the General Hospital, Gbagada for treatment.

An official of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) told Lagos Metro, who visited the scene of the accident, that it was a fatal one because the driver was on a full speed before the collision.

"The accident was a fatal one. It happened around University of Lagos waterfront on the Third Mainland bridge. The driver was on a top speed when he rammed into the stationary sand tipper.

"About 70 per cent of the vehicle was crushed, the driver and seven others died instantly while three were badly injured," he said.

An eyewitness, who preferred to be simply called Mr Kunmi, told Lagos Metro that he forcefully opened the door of the vehicle before they could rescue the victims, adding that the accident happened around 10.00 p.m.

"The commercial bus was coming from Ajah/Lekki area. There was, however, a tipper truck that had broken down on the road. The engine was still running. The bus driver, who did not know see the tipper, rammed into it.

"The passengers were hooked. We wanted to use my vehicle to pull the vehicle out from the tipper, but we couldn't. We later stopped a truck, which assisted us. A rescue agency later brought a sledge hammer that we used to open up the vehicle and bring out nine bodies, including that of the driver, Segun. We left the scene around 2.00 a.m. on Thursday.

"Some people were laid on the ground, crying in agony, but we cannot say if they will survive it because it was fatal. One of them had his hip torn and two others lost their hands and legs.

"In fact, the money the driver was holding glued to his hand as a result of the sudden shock from the accident.

"From the driver's seat to the third seat of the vehicle was a complete write off," he said.

The police spokesperson, Dolapo Badmos confirmed the accident.

General Manager of LASEMA, Michael Akindele, however, said five people died in the accident.

In a statement, he said, "A mazda commercial bus with reg. no. AKD 292 XL coming from Ajah Lekki en route Oshodi rammed into a broken down MAN truck at about 10.24 p.m. on Wednesday, at Third Mainland Bridge, inward Oworonshoki.

"According to investigation conducted by the Agency's ERT at the incident scene, it was revealed that the commercial bus rammed into the broken down truck while speeding.

"Five victims (adult male) were trapped and the vehicle extricated by the agency Emergency Response Team and their bodies recovered (dead) while six other victims were rescued alive with severe injuries and were taken to Accident and Emergency Centre (Trauma Centre) and Gbagada General Hospital by LASAMBUS.

"The dead bodies were also evacuated by SEHMu to Mainland Hospital Mortuary, except the commercial bus driver, whose body was released at the request of the family members and friends through the intervention of the Lagos State Commissioner of Police, who was present at the scene of the accident.

"The truck that caused the accident was also set ablaze by an angry mob which was upset that it was abandoned on the road. Men of the Lagos State fire service were able to put out the fire, while the recovery of the accidented vehicle were carried out by LASEMA, LASTMA FRSC, RRS and the Nigeria Police.

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