

37 die in Bauchi, Nasarawa road accidents

Avoid night trips, FRSC boss advises

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THIRTY-SEVEN people were over the weekend killed in road accidents in Bauchi, Bauchi State and Keffi, Nasarawa State.

In Bauchi, the accident claimed 20 lives, as the victims were burnt beyond recognition.

Eye-witness report had it that the accident involved two vehicles that had a head-on collision at Mangorori in Tirwun a suburb of Bauchi, which is about three kilometers away from the metropolis.

It was learnt that a Humer bus belonging to Borno Express, was heading to Maiduguri, Borno State

from Jos, Plateau State, with 18 passengers and a Volkswagen Golf car coming from Misau and heading to Bauchi with four passengers on board, were involved in the head-on collision.

It was further gathered that the two vehicles burst into flames following the impact of the accident, just as 20 passengers were burnt beyond recognition, while two female passengers were discovered to have survived after firefighters from Bauchi put out the fire.

While confirming the accident to the *Nigerian Tribune*, the Bauchi State police command through its Public Relations Officer (PRO), DSP Ahmed Wakili, said the charred bodies of the victims had been depos-

ited at the mortuary of Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH), Bauchi, while the two female survivors were already receiving treatment at the same hospital.

Wakili, who could not confirm the cause of the accident, said police personnel promptly responded to the distress call and joined in the evacuation of the victims.

The Public Education Officer of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in the state, Rilwanu Suleiman, when contacted, said he was not in Bauchi as of the time of the accident and could not give enough information.

Meanwhile, the accident on the Abuja/Keffi Road, between Gudi and Akwanga

local government areas occurred on Saturday and claimed 17 lives.

The FRSC Unit Commander in Akwanga, Ebere Onyegbaduo, confirmed to *Channels Television* via telephone on Sunday that 17 people died.

He said: "We received a distress call of a ghastly accident at about 7:00 p.m. around Agwada Town, which is between Akwanga and Gudi towns.

"We rushed to the scene and found a commercial Volkswagen Sharon bus and a private Toyota Sienna bus both engulfed in flames, with the occupants inside the burning vehicles.

"We called for the fire brigade, and the fire was contained by 11:00 p.m. and

we completed the rescue by 2:00 a.m."

Ebere added that preliminary investigations showed that the Sharon bus was coming from Abuja and the driver had tried to overtake another vehicle while on a hill when he ran into the Sienna and both vehicles went up in flames.

He said the bodies of the occupants of the Sharon bus had been deposited at the Akwanga General Hospital, while those of the Sienna had been taken to the Dalhatu Araf Specialist Hospital (DASH) in Lafia.

Meanwhile, arising from the dangers, risks and rising cases of fatalities occasioned by road traffic crashes recorded at night, the Corps Marshal, Federal Road

Safety Corps (FRSC), Dr Bob-oye Oyeyemi, has advised fleet operators, other commercial drivers and patronisers of night trips, including private vehicle owners, to desist henceforth from it.

He emphasised that night trip, which is often characterised by poor visibility, fatigue, sleeping on wheels, excessive speed, among others, "is not only unsafe, but utterly dangerous."

According to the Corps Public Education Officer, Bisi Kazeem, the FRSC boss gave the warning while reacting to some reports of fatal crashes recorded at night at the beginning of the year, which led to the death of several road users and left others with different degrees of injury.

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