

# Two policemen, 59 others die in Borno, Plateau, Abuja, Kogi auto crashes

Yekini Jimoh with agency reports

**T**WO policemen were among the 61 people killed in auto crashes in Borno, Plateau, Abuja and Kogi between Monday and Tuesday.

In Borno, 37 people died on Tuesday on the Damaturu-Maiduguri Road.

It was gathered that the accident occurred after two Hummer buses and one golf saloon car collided in the early hours of the day.

The Zonal Commanding Officer of the Federal Road Safety Corps in charge of Borno, Yobe and Bauchi states, Rotimi Adeleye, confirmed the incident to Channels Television via a telephone conversation.

Adeleye said: "A fatal crash occurred this morning [Tuesday] on the Maiduguri-Damaturu road very close to a village called Jakana.

"Two Hummer Buses and one Golf saloon car were involved and so far, 37 people have been confirmed dead and most of them burnt beyond recognition."

He explained that the FRSC and fire service had deployed their men for the rescue mission and had also liaised with the state commissioner of police to obtain a court order for mass burial of the victims burnt beyond recognition.

According to him, the tyre of one of the Hummer buses coming from the opposite direction burst, resulting in a collision, while the golf saloon which was coming behind at top speed ran into the two buses already on fire.

He advised motorists to obey traffic rules and drive at a low speed, especially where there are potholes.

The deceased policemen, also from the Borno State command, were travelling

to Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State for the 2022 Police Games when they had an accident in Plateau State.

According to the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)*, the accident occurred on Monday on Hawan Kibb road in Plateau.

This is contained in a statement by the Borno State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Sani Shatambaya, on Tuesday in Maiduguri.

Shatambaya said the contingent was to represent Zone 15, comprising Borno and Yobe commands at the biannual police games.

He said that the accident occurred due to brake failure, adding that those who died were female constables.

"The commissioner of police, Borno Command, regrets the unfortunate accident, noting that the personnel who lost their lives and the injured victims

have been conveyed back to Maiduguri," he added.

According to Shatambaya, befitting burial was conducted for the dead, while the injured are currently receiving treatment in various hospitals in Maiduguri.

"The commissioner of police, who led a delegation of the management team of Borno command, commiserated with the families of the deceased officers.

"He equally used the opportunity to wish the injured personnel quick recovery.

"He also prayed for the remaining team members who continued with their journey to participate in the ongoing IG biennial Police Games," he said.

In Abuja, the FRSC confirmed that 17 people were killed while four others were injured in an auto crash on Kwali-Abaji road, just

before Awana in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

The Corps Public Education Officer, Bisi Kazeem, said this in a statement on Tuesday in Abuja.

Kazeem said the crash, which occurred at about 6:30 a.m., involved two vehicles - a DAF trailer and a Toyota bus.

He said all the 22 people involved in the accident were males, adding that the injured victims were provided first aid treatment by rescue workers before being taken to the hospital.

"Out of 22 victims, four persons sustained various degrees of injury, 17 died, while one was rescued without any injury.

"Investigations revealed that the crash happened because of speed limit violations and fatigue," he said.

Kazeem said that the corps emergency rescue team took the injured to Abaji General

Hospital, while the remains of the dead victims were deposited at the morgue.

Speaking on the crash, the acting Corps Marshal, Dauda Bui, advised drivers against violating prescribed speed limit.

In Kogi State, five persons were killed, while four others sustained various degrees of injury when an articulated vehicle crushed a cab at about 7:30 p.m. on Monday in Okene town.

The accident was confirmed by the sector commander of the FRSC in the state, Steve Dawulung.

Dawulung said the truck rammed the cab at Oro junction after its brake failed.

The FRSC boss said the four persons who died were three males and a female.

He said: "Their corpses were taken to Okengwe General Hospital mortuary, while the injured were taken by their respective families."