

Five feared killed, four injured as new year party turns tragic in Oyo

20 dead in Ogun, Bauchi, Imo accidents

From Soji Ajibola, Ishola Michael and John Kennedy Uzoma with agency report

FIVE persons were reportedly killed, while four others were seriously injured when a driver rammed a group of people at a New Year party at Akinmorin community in Afijio Local Government Area of Oyo State.

It was gathered that the incident occurred when one of the organisers of a New Year party in the community was scolded by his friends for allegedly driving recklessly to the venue and this resulted in an exchange of words between them.

It was further learnt that after the intervention of some elders around the area, the man went to his car, still angry about the

confrontation he had with his friends, started the car and drove it into the party where the others were still dancing.

An eyewitness informed the *Nigerian Tribune* that he knocked down over 10 people in the process, while about five persons died from the impact of the crash.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that three of the suspect's friends who were inside the car when he drove into those dancing had already been arrested, but the suspect was still at large as of the time of filing this report.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Adewale Osifeso, confirmed the incident.

Osifeso said investigation had already commenced into the matter, just as he

added that updates would be provided later.

Meanwhile, in Ogun, seven persons were confirmed dead on Sunday, while 16 others sustained injuries in an accident involving a Toyota Hiace bus and Mack tanker few meters to GOFAMINT, on the Lagos-Ibadan expressway, the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* has reported.

The sector commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in Ogun State, Mr Ahmed Umar, confirmed the incident to newsmen in Abeokuta.

Umar said that the accident occurred at 4:10pm and was caused by excessive speed on the part of the bus driver who lost control and rammed the tanker from behind.

The FRSC boss added that 25 people were involved, which comprise 17 male

adults and eight female adults.

"A total of 16 persons sustained varying degrees of injury (10 male adults and six female adults), while seven persons were recorded dead from the crash (six male adults and one female adult), and two others were unhurt."

Umar explained that the injured victims were taken to Victory Hospital, Ogere for medical attention, while the bodies of the deceased were deposited at FOS Morgue, Ipara.

In Bauchi, a head-on collision between two vehicles claimed the lives of seven persons, while 14 others were injured.

The Bauchi State sector command of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) confirmed the accident, adding that it occurred on December 31.

According to a statement by the FRSC sector commander, Yusuf Abdullahi, the accident occurred at about 7:35p.m.

The FRSC statement said the probable cause of the road traffic crash (RTC) were speed limit violation and worn out tyres.

The number of the people involved in the accident was 21, comprising 18 male adults and three female adults, out of which seven persons, comprising six male adults and one female adult were killed on the spot.

The FRSC operatives also evacuated the injured victims to the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Hospital (AT-BUTH), Bauchi for medical attention, while the dead were taken for confirmation and depositing at the morgue.

In Imo, an accident

claimed six lives at Amarafor-Obosima community in Ohaji/Egbema Local Government Area of the state.

It was learnt that a driver, suspected to be drunk, rammed several people, killing six on the spot, while others were rushed to various hospitals for medical attention.

Dominic Okpor, who is a relative of a victim, Mrs Chidiadi Ogu, told the *Nigeria Tribune* in Owerri on Sunday that the driver hit his cousin while she was travelling on a motorcycle.

He said she was rushed to a local hospital in the area, where she was referred to the Federal Medical Centre, Owerri, where she later died.

He said the driver had been arrested and detained at the Ohaji divisional police headquarters in Umuagwo.