

Accidents claim 11 in Osun, Kwara

Abdulrazaq visits scene, commiserates with victims' families

From Adeolu Adeyemo and Biola Azeez with agency report

S EVEN persons, including three schoolchildren, were on Tuesday killed in a motor accident in Osogbo, the Osun State capital.

The accident, which involved a commercial bus and a tricycle, also claimed the life of the driver of the tricycle.

It was gathered that the accident occurred at about 9:10a.m. in front of WOCDF Centre.

The three schoolchildren and tricycle driver were said to have died on the spot, while the other three gave up the ghost after being rushed to the hospital for treatment.

Confirming the incident, the state sector commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Mr Henry Benamaisia, said: "The accident, which occurred at

about 9:10a.m, involved a blue Mazda commercial bus and a tricycle.

"The accident occurred around WOCDF area, close to Lameco Junction, on Ring Road bye-pass; it claimed the lives of four persons on the spot.

"Three passengers out of the four died at the hospital where they were rushed to. Eight persons were involved in the accident — four male adults with two female children and two male children.

"We only have one survivor out of the eight persons," Benamaisia said.

He attributed the cause of the accident to excessive speeding, which resulted in tyre burst and loss of control by the commercial bus driver.

"The vehicle and tricycle have been taken to Dugbe police station, while the bodies of the deceased were taken to the Osun State Teaching Hospital.

In another incident, a trailer

conveying laterite on Tuesday killed a yet-to-be identified student of the Institute of Technology (IOT) at the Kwara State Polytechnic (Kwarapoly).

Nigerian Tribune gathered that the incident, which occurred at Zango roundabout, involved two other students who sustained serious injuries.

It was gathered that the deceased and two of his colleagues, were on a motorcycle going to the polytechnic located at Adewole area of Ilorin when the accident occurred.

Eyewitness account revealed that the driver of the trailer was heading towards Maraba from Zango when he lost control while approaching the roundabout and hit a vehicle before it, while the vehicle in turn hit the motorcycle conveying the three students.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Toun

Ejire-Adeyemi, confirmed the incident, adding that the driver of the truck had been detained by the police at Police 'A' Division, Challenge area of Ilorin, while the truck had also been impounded.

In another incident, the FRSC, Kwara command, confirmed the death of three persons in an accident involving four vehicles on the Olooru/Okoolo axis of the state.

According to the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)*, the state sector commander of FRSC, Mr Stephen Dawulung, who confirmed the accident to newsmen on Tuesday in Ilorin, said it occurred at about 3.00 p.m., on Monday.

Dawulung explained that those who died got burnt during the crash.

According to him, on the receipt of the report of the crash, the FRSC rescue operatives in the state were immediately mobilised to the crash scene.

He added that preliminary investigations revealed that a vehicle conveying feeds, enroute Lagos, attempted to overtake another vehicle, but collided with an oncoming trailer conveying brewery products.

"Meanwhile, another tanker conveying petroleum products was closely following the tanker conveying brewery products and crashed into the pre-existing accident, leading to a multiple crashes.

"The multiple vehicles collision ignited fire that escalated due to the presence of petroleum product and the inferno burnt the three vehicles and a motorcycle which got caught up in the crash," he explained.

The sector commander disclosed that five persons were involved in the crash, adding that two were passengers on a motorcycle.

He said that other victims of the crash, aside from those

who were burnt to death, sustained various degrees of injury and were taken to the General Hospital, Ilorin.

He also said that the remains of those who lost their lives had been claimed by their relatives.

Meanwhile, the Kwara State governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, on Tuesday visited the accident scene at Oko-Olowo expressway.

The governor commiserated with the victims and their families, just as he urged motorists to always drive safely and with respect for other road users.

He appreciated the Federal Government for its investment on the Oko-Olowo expressway and other federal road projects in the state, adding that the state government would continue to engage the Federal Government to construct a flyover on the road to reduce accidents at the busy Malet junction of the expressway.