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15 perish in motor accident

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Published: Thursday, 3 Jan 2008

About 15 people were reported to have lost their lives on Wednesday when a Toyota Hiace Bus had a head-on collision with a Jeep along the Gwagwalada express way, in Abuja.

Ten others who were seriously injured in the accident were rushed to the General Hospital in Abaji, Abuja, while the dead were taken to the Gwagwalada Specialist Hospital.

The Federal Capital Territory Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Mr. Jonas Agwu, who confirmed the accident to our correspondent on the telephone, noted that the accident took place around 12.00 noon.

"According to my men in the field, the accident was as a result of over-speeding and dangerous overtaking by one of the vehicles, resulting in a head-on collision," he said.

He added that the accident which claimed several lives, was a dent on the impressive record of the commission at safe-guarding lives during the festive season.

He said, "We had experienced this kind of things in the previous seasons when people returning from the Christmas and New Year festivities appear to be in so much of a hurry to get back; this is utterly uncalled for.

"We warned road users to drive cautiously and to avoid over-speeding or reckless driving, especially at this period when the roads get busier due to increased activity."

The Corps Marshall, FRSC, Mr. Osita Chidoka, had noted that officers of the commission on the highways would be placed on high alert to check incidences of risky and dangerous driving.

"Our officers and men have been fully deployed in all the major highways, as we have taken it upon us to make sure that where we can avoid it, lives and limbs are not lost during this period of intense road activity," he had said.

Chidoka, who noted that he and his men had been on patrol throughout the holiday period, added that fewer accidents had occurred during this year's festive season, compared to previous years.

According to him, trend analysis by the commission over the years indicates seasonal increases in motor accidents and injuries during this period of the year.

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