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## 16 die in Sagamu road accident

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The Sagamu axis of the Sagamu-Benin Expressway on Friday witnessed another bloodbath as 16 people lost their lives in an auto crash involving a luxurious passengers bus and a fuel tanker.

About 20 other passengers in the bus, marked Lagos FX 102 LNG, also sustained serious injuries in the crash that occurred in the early hours of Friday. According to the Information Officer of the Ogun Traffic Compliance and Enforcement, Mr. Wole Shokunbi, who spoke with our correspondent on the telephone on Friday, the accident occurred when the fuel tanker, which was coming from the Lagos end of the expressway, drove against traffic.

He explained that the fuel tanker, which was fully loaded with Premium Motor Spirit, otherwise known as petrol, collided with the luxury bus which was heading for Lagos from Uyo. Our correspondent learnt that the tanker's driver, a female passenger with him and the driver of the passenger bus died instantly while some of the passengers who sat near the rear of the bus sustained injuries.

However, the tanker, with registration number FX 724 ADC did not burst into flames.

The Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Mr. Olu-Mike Olagunju, attributed the accident to "dangerous driving." He said, "If the journey had been in daytime, the other bus would have seen the reckless tanker driver. That is why the FRSC keeps saying our people should avoid night travel. It is dangerous."

Olagunju added that some of the dead would have been saved if they had received help after the accident, regretting that succour did not come owing to the time it happened. He said, "Most of them died as a result of pain. People could only help them in the morning; since the crash happened in the night. You can imagine the trauma for them to have lived with such terrible injuries till the morning; about seven hours later."

The injured were said to have been rushed to the Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital, Sagamu, where some of them were given medical attention and discharged. Although the tanker did not burst into flames, the Ogun State Fire Service was on hand for any eventuality.

The Corps Commander, TRACE, Elder Ayodele Sangofadeji, and the state Commissioner for Works, Mr. Adesegun Adekoya, also visited the scene of the accident and paid a visit to the injured in the hospital. Sangofadeji and Adekoya also gave financial assistance to the injured passengers who wanted to return to Lagos after they were treated and discharged.

Other agencies at the scene of the accident included the Federal Road Safety Commission, the Police and the Vehicle Inspection Officer.

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