

# New Year tragedy: FRSC laments as *okada* rider dies in head-on-collision

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**T**HE Niger State Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Mr. Emmanuel Abe, has lamented the incessant cases of accidents in the state involving motorcycles, popularly known as *okada*.

Abe spoke on Saturday, following the death of an

*okada* rider in a head on collision with a private vehicle adjacent the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers office in Minna, Niger State capital on the New Year day.

The remains of the deceased had been deposited at the mortuary of the Minna General hospital, while his

passenger who sustained serious injuries has also been receiving treatment at the same hospital.

Abe, who described the incident as unfortunate, especially as it happened on the New Year day, attributed it to over speeding.

He regretted that most of the *okada* riders had been reckless while advising

motorists on the need to always obey traffic rules and shun over speeding and dangerous overtaking.

He regretted that over 70 per cent of accidents in the state involved the *okada* riders while restating the need for the riders to always strictly adhere to the use of crash helmet.

He disclosed that the

use of crash helmet could go a long way in avoiding serious injuries in case of accident, but regretted that in spite of the commission's efforts, many *okada* riders had been violating the rules on the use of crash helmets.

According to him, "Go to the general hospitals in Minna and other urban centres in the state, countless victims of *okada* riders are at the emergency and accidents units of the ward. We will continue to

enlighten the *okada* riders on the need to use the crash helmet at all time and we will continue to ensure we enforce compliance."

Abe expressed joy that many accidents were not recorded along the highways in the state this last festive season as compared to same period during previous years.

He attributed the development to the incessant campaigns and enlightenment embarked by the FRSC on the need for motorists to be safety conscious on the road.

## Why toll 'll continue on Lekki-Epe expressway Eashola