

# Six passengers, driver die in Lagos crashes

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**Samson Folarin**

No fewer than six Lagos residents on Wednesday lost their lives in crashes in the Ikorodu and Ilasamaja areas of the state.

*PUNCH Metro* learnt that while three people died in the first crash which happened in Itoikin, Ikorodu, three passengers of a Toyota Coaster bus lost their lives after a signboard fell on their vehicle on the

Oshodi-Apapa Expressway.

The corpses of the victims were deposited in different morgues in the state.

Our correspondent gathered that officials of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority, Lagos State Emergency Management Agency, Lagos State Ambulance Service and the State Environmental Health Monitoring Unit responded to the incidents.

A credible source told our correspondent that the Itoikin accident was caused by speeding, adding that the bus, with the number plate AKD 726 FN, rammed into a stationary trailer.

He said, “The accident happened around 4.30am and it involved a fully-loaded commercial bus. The driver probably thought by that time, the road should be free, so he was at top speed when he rammed into a parked trailer. Three young men died on the spot, including the bus driver. The other passengers sustained varying degrees of injury.”

The corpses were reportedly deposited in the Ikorodu General Hospital mortuary, while the injured were admitted to the hospital.

Our correspondent learnt that the second crash occurred within a four-hour interval, as a truck, whose container flipped up, hit a signboard at the Ilasamaja end of the Oshodi-Apapa Expressway.

The concretised signboard was said to have fallen on the commercial bus trailing the truck.

The General Manager of LASEMA, Tiamiyu Adeshina, said three passengers died in the accident while seven others sustained serious injuries.

He noted that the agency’s response team had received a distress call on the incident via the emergency toll free line 112/767 around 8.26am.

He said, “We learnt that the accident happened at Ilasamaja bus stop inward Oshodi on the Apapa-Oshodi Expressway.

“Preliminary investigation carried out by the LASEMA response team revealed that an empty Iveco truck, with the number plate, MEK 695 XA, hit an overhead signpost, which fell on a commercial Toyota Coaster bus coming from behind.

“Seven victims (four adult females and three adult male) with severe injuries were rescued and stabilised by the agency’s officials and LASAMBUS and subsequently transferred to the Mushin General Hospital for further treatment. Unfortunately, three adult males lost their lives and were handed over to officials of SEHMU for transfer to the mortuary.”

The LASEMA boss urged motorists to always drive within the approved speed limit and watch out for road signs and other impediments to avert unnecessary loss of lives.

Aside from the rescue agencies, policemen from the Cele and Itire divisions were said to have responded to the accident.

The Public Affairs Officer of LASTMA, Mahmud Hassan, said the state traffic officials assisted in clearing the wreckage from the road.

He noted that some of the deceased’s family members took away their corpses.

He said, “With the aid of cranes and forklifts provided by LASEMA, the road was cleared for free flow of traffic. The Coaster bus and the signboard were also removed. The scene was seriously crowded and that almost slowed down the pace of our work. Some of the relatives of the victims later surfaced and two corpses were taken away.”

The spokesperson for the Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, SP Chike Oti, said the driver of the truck, Kola Shoetan, had been arrested.

He said, “The driver did not heed the warning of other road users, who had noticed that the container of his truck was poorly fastened and could pull off. He continued with the journey until it fell and landed on a commuter bus, killing three people instantly and injuring several others.”

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