

18 die in Ogun, Niger as tipper lorry crashes into Dangote truck

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Ogun State accident scene

Tunji Bosun and Enyioha Opara

Eighteen people have been confirmed dead in separate accidents in Ogun and Niger states, while 40 others suffered varying degrees of injuries.

A lone accident that occurred on Sunday along the Bida-Mokwa Road in Niger State claimed 15 lives and left 40 injured, while another one at the Mile 12 area on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway in Ogere, Remo-North Local Government Area of Ogun State, on Monday, resulted in the death of three persons.

The Ogun State accident occurred around 5.45am when a tipper lorry loaded with granite rammed into a Dangote Cement truck that was on motion and killed three persons.

The Public Relations Officer, Ogun State Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Corps, Babatunde Akinbiyi, confirmed the accident.

Akinbiyi said the accident involved a tipper lorry with number plate MUS 589 XX and a Dangote truck with number plate NSR 89 YQ.

He explained that the accident was caused by excessive speeding on the part of the tipper lorry driver.

According to Akinbiyi, the tipper lorry hit the Dangote truck from the rear and killed three occupants of the tipper lorry.

He said, “There was a fatal accident after the Mile 12 Market, inbound Lagos. Traffic inbound Lagos was affected as the two articulated vehicles involved in the accident occupied the slow lane.

“The granite-laden tipper lorry was inbound Lagos and was on top speed from a quarry at Isara before it lost control and rammed into the Dangote truck from the rear.

“The three persons, who lost their lives, were in the tipper lorry, while the number of occupants in the Dangote truck was unknown.

“The victims were trapped in the ill-fated vehicles and were later removed by the rescue team of the Federal Road Safety Corps and TRACE, among others.

“The impact of the accident prompted the rescue team to divert inbound Lagos traffic to the other lane.”

Akinbiyi added that the remains of the victims had been deposited in a private morgue in Ipara, Remo-North Local Government Area of the state.

It was gathered that the Niger State accident involved a truck conveying tomatoes and pepper to the southern part of the country.

According to eyewitnesses, apart from the produce, the truck was also conveying people, who sat on makeshift seats on top of the produce.

It was gathered that while trying to negotiate a bend around Gbadafu, a few kilometres from Bida, the driver of the truck lost control and the vehicle overturned and threw the produce on the passengers, which resulted in the death of some and injuries to the others.

The dead and the injured were rushed by good Samaritans to the Federal Medical Centre, Bida, for treatment.

The morgue of the hospital was said to be congested, while the injured, who could not be admitted to the emergency wards, were treated on the bare floor after the old mattresses in the stores had been retrieved for use.

As of 1pm on Monday, medical personnel were still battling to save the lives of some of the injured victims.

The Head of Clinical Services, FMC, Bida, Dr Adedeji Adekanye, confirmed that 10 corpses were brought to the hospital from the scene of the accident and were deposited in the morgue, while three others, who were brought in alive, gave up the ghost because of the severity of their injuries.

According to Adekanye, the major challenge faced by the hospital is inadequate bed spaces at the emergency wards, adding that most of the victims were presently being attended to on the bare floor.

“We are coping I don’t think we require any assistance from outside; our major problem is inadequate bed spaces,” he stated.

He added that those with minor injuries had been treated and discharged.

Efforts to reach officials of the Federal Road Safety Corps for comments proved abortive as their mobile phones were switched off.

The Director General, Niger State Emergency Management Agency, Ibrahim Inga, said his men had been sent to Bida to assess the situation.

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