

Seven travellers killed as bus from Zamfara crashes in Osun, catches fire

Bola Bamigbola, Osogbo

SEVEN passengers in a commercial bus said to be travelling from Zamfara State in the early hours of Tuesday, died in a road accident that occurred along Ilesha/Osu Expressway.

The Osun Field Commander of Amotekun Corps, Amitolu Shittu, in an interview with our correspondent, said his men were the first responders at the scene of the accident.

Shittu said the driver of the bus travelling to Osun from Zamfara State, lost control, hit a billboard and went up in flames.

According to him, the men of Federal Fire Service and the Federal Road Safety Corps later joined his men that were on patrol on the road and rescued some of the travellers.

He said, "The passenger bus was travelling from Zamfara State and it got burnt in the early hours of Tuesday in Ilesha. We were on patrol in

Ilesha around 3.45 am when the incident occurred.

"The vehicle was on top speed when the driver lost control and it veered off the road and hit a billboard. It is an 18-passenger bus. Some of the occupants were burnt beyond recognition."

Giving further insight into the accident, the Osun FRSC

Sector Commander, Paul Okpe, said seven persons lost their lives, adding that four of the deceased were burnt beyond recognition.

Okpe lamented high rate of disregard for traffic rules along Gbongan/Owena corridor in the state where the accident occurred.

He said, "A Toyota Hiace

18-passenger bus was involved in the accident and seven people died. Four of them burnt beyond recognition. There is more road violation along that road.

"That is our major challenge in Osun, between Gbongan and Owena. Also, everybody has the right to travel in the night, but we are just advising against it, because night comes with a lot of challenges."

We won't recruit repentant B'Haram fighters, says CDS

Solomon Odeniyi, Abuja

THE Chief of Defence Staff, General Lucky Irabor, has said no ex-Boko Haram fighter has been recruited into the Nigerian military.

He also disclosed that contrary to speculations, there was no plan to absorb them into the military or other security agencies in the country.

According to him, the over 1,000 former Boko Haram

fighters can never be recruited due to stringent safeguards in place in the various security agencies.

Irabor spoke at the opening of Operation Safe Corridor stakeholders' meeting held at the Defence Headquarters, Abuja on Tuesday.

The CDS who was represented by the Chief of Defence Logistics, Major General Adeyemi Yekini, 1,000 persons, including 16 foreigners, have graduated

from the Deradicalisation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programme of OPSC and have been reintegrated.

He added that 559 others are currently going through the programme in Gombe State.

Irabor said, "There have been concerns that OPSC graduates are being recruited by the military and paramilitary agencies.

"I wish to clearly dispute this assertion and reassure Nigerians that none of the over 1,000 rehabilitated Nigerians from OPSC DRR have been recruited and will never be recruited into the Nigerian military or sister security services due to stringent safeguards in place to prevent such recruitment.

"I am particularly enthralled to note that OPSC has continued to improve its programmes principles, practices and procedures over the years. Today, this initiative has become a model that has been replicated in all the Lake Chad Basin Countries. It has also elicited the interest of both local and international bodies including academia."

Ogun pensioners urged to prioritise well-being

Dayo Ojerinde

THE Permanent Secretary, Bureau of Local Government Pensions, Ogun State, Mrs Olubukola Adeniregun, has urged pensioners to prioritise their well-being.

Adeniregun, in a statement on Tuesday, said it was important for the pensioners to take care of themselves, saying this was paramount to attaining a better life after retirement.

She was quoted to have said this in Abeokuta, the state capital, while addressing some local government pensioners who were in her office

to process the payment of their gratuities.

Adeniregun said the part payment of their gratuities was the desire of the state government to ensure pensioners live quality lives, as well as providing other basic amenities for the benefit of the citizenry.

"Now that the state government has been disbursing the gratuity to you pensioners, I believe this gesture should be commended, and it will be expected that the money is expended on things that will improve your well-being, such as healthy diets and medication as prescribed by your doctors, so that you will

continue to enjoy good health and live a comfortable life during your retirement", she said.

The Permanent Secretary enjoined the pensioners to always embrace dialogue rather than protests while agitating for their demand, assuring them that the state governor, Dapo Abiodun would continue to ensure the welfare of the people, particularly, regular payment of monthly pensions.

Some of the beneficiaries who were retired primary school teachers and local government workers appreciated the state government for the payment.