

## Christmas tragedy: 14 die, 25 injured in Ogun, Anambra road crashes

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No fewer than 14 travellers have lost their lives while 25 sustained varying degrees of injury in three accidents in Ogun and Anambra State.

Another six persons lost their lives in an accident involving two vehicles on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

While seven persons died in the accident that occurred on the Ososa bridge in the Odogbolu Local Government Area of Ogun State, one person died in the accident which took place in Umoukpu inward Enugu section of the Expressway by Awka-Enugu expressway on Friday.

The Ogun crash which occurred at about 12:20am on Saturday involved a Mercedes Benz Marco Polo Luxury Bus with no registration number.

The Public Education Officer of the Federal Road Safety Corps of the state Sector Command, Florence Okpe, confirmed the incident.

Okpe said the luxury bus which belongs to Izuchukwu Motors, Onitsha, took off from Ojuelegba, Lagos on Saturday night.

She said, A total of 63 persons were involved which comprised 40 male adults, 15 female adults, five male children and three female children.

"Seven persons sustained injuries; three male adults and four female adults. A total of seven persons were recorded dead from the crash (three male adults and four female adults).

"Forty-nine persons were recorded unhurt (34 male adults, seven female adults, five male children and three female children."

The FRSC spokesperson attributed the causes of the lone accident to suspected wrongful overtaking and loss of control

She added that the injured victims were given first aid treatment while bodies of the deceased were deposited at State Hospital Mortuary, Ijebu Ode.

She said, "Nigeria Police Force from Odoogbolu were contacted and the crashed vehicle was handed over to the police and obstruction cleared off the road.

"The Sector Commander, FRSC, Ogun Sector Command, caution motorists on dangerous driving especially this period of high vehicular movement and night travel when visibility is poor."

He advised motorists to drive defensively, maintain safe speed, avoid night travels and obey traffic rules and regulations.

"The Sector Commander commiserated with the family of the crash victims and enjoined them to contact FRSC, Ijebu-Ode Unit Command, for more information about the crash."

In Anambra, the lone crash involved an unidentified driver of a blue Passat Volkswagen Wagon with Registration Number BEN 658 TP.

According to eyewitness, the accident occurred at about 4am with fatigue being attributed as the probable cause of the crash.

Twelve people were said to be in the vehicle comprising two male adults, one female adult, four male children and five female children when the crash occurred.

As of the time of filing this report, the injured victims have been rushed to Princeton Hospital, Awka, by the rescue team of the Federal Road Safety Corps, where one male adult was confirmed dead by the doctor on duty and his corpse deposited at the morgue.

"Due to fatigue, the driver of the vehicle slept off while driving and crashed," the eyewitness added.

However, the FRSC rescue team on the ground managed traffic and ensured obstruction caused by the crash was cleared.

The Sector Commander, Anambra State Corps, Mr Adeoye Irelewuyi, sympathised with the family of the dead victim and wished the injured victims quick recovery.

He urged motorists to always observe the regulatory rest periods when travelling in order to avoid fatigue, adding that "traffic rules and regulations must be obeyed always".

On the road crash that happened on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, the sector Commander, Mr Ahmed Umar, confirmed the incident to the News Agency of Nigeria in Ota, Ogun State.

He said that 12 other persons sustained various degrees of injuries in the accident.