

Abuja, Bauchi crashes kill 44, FRSC plans mass burial

Gift Habib and
Armstrong Bakam

FORTY-FOUR persons on Tuesday lost their lives in separate accidents along the Damaturu-Maiduguri Federal Highway in Bauchi State, and the Kwali-Abuja Expressway of the Federal Capital Territory.

In Bauchi State, the Zonal Commanding Officer, Federal Road Safety Corps, Zone 12, comprising Bauchi, Borno and Yobe states, Rotimi Adeleye, said the accident claimed the lives of 37 persons, adding that eight other people sustained varying degrees of injury.

Adeleye said the accident which occurred close to Jakana village involved two Hummer buses and a Golf Saloon car, adding that the two buses were conveying passengers to their destinations when they collided and went up in flames.

He said, "37 people involved

died on the spot as they were burnt beyond recognition. The FRSC immediately deployed men for a rescue mission where they liaised with the Borno State Commissioner of Police to obtain a court order for the mass burial of the victims."

Adeleye said the buses were coming in opposite directions when the tyre of one of the buses burst suddenly, leading to an head-on collision which resulted in fire, adding that the Golf car coming behind ran into them with little impact.

He said the crash was caused by excessive speeding and warned motorists to desist from excessive speeding in order to reduce road traffic crashes on the highway.

In another development along the Kwali-Abuja Expressway, FCT, a crash involving a DAF truck with number plate BAU 632 XA, and a Toyota bus with number plate GME 201 ZU, killed 17



Scene of one of the crashes

men.

The spokesperson for the Federal Road Safety Corps,

Bisi Kazeem, confirmed the development in a statement on Tuesday.

Kazeem said, "Pursuant to the fatal crash that occurred during the early hours of Tuesday, along the Kwali-Abuja expressway, the Acting Corps Marshal, Federal Road Safety Corps, Dauda Biu, has again cautioned drivers against violating prescribed speed limits.

"He warned against night trips, as well as urged them to always observe a 30 minute rest after every four hours drive so as to avoid the dangers of excessive speed and fatigue on the highways.

Investigation revealed that the fatal crash involved one DAF truck with number plate BAU 632 XA, and a Toyota bus bearing the following registration details GME 201 ZU.

Unfortunately, there were a total of 22 occupants involved in the crash, out of which 17 male victims were killed. Four other occupants, also male victims, who were rescued alive, sustained various degrees of injury,

while the remaining male occupant was rescued without any injury."

Kazeem attributed the

cause of the crash to excess speeding and fatigue.

"As at the time of this statement, the emergency

rescue team of the corps has concluded the rescue of the injured victims to the Abaji General Hospital for immediate medical

attention, while the remains of the dead victims were deposited in the mortuary," he added.

Pastor arrested over links to Adamawa kidnap syndicate

Hindi Livinus, Yola

A pastor, Ruth Kenneth, has been arrested by policemen of the Adamawa State Police Command for allegedly being part of a kidnap syndicate terrorising residents in the state.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the 38-year-old prayer warrior and traditionalist run a miracle centre for persons seeking solution to their problems in the state.

Luck, however, ran out of Kenneth, when policemen attached to the Anti-Kidnap Unit of the command traced and found out that her phone was used by a kidnap suspect.



• Kenneth

The police were said to be on the trail of the suspect who had been demanding N10m ransom

them, she was a member of dare devil criminals specialised in abducting people for ransom.

He said, "The suspect in question is a spiritualist who has been held in prison custody following her arraignment in court. But even now, there is still another allegation, which police investigations in another high profile kidnap case showed that she is equally involved due to conversations which the police tracked and linked to her. The police will apply for her to be brought back to the command to face fresh charges against her as a suspect."

Nguroje, who warned the public to be wary of persons they patronise when in search of spiritual solution, said Kenneth