

# 18 die in Niger, Ondo crashes, FRSC warns travellers

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**N**O fewer than 15 persons have lost their lives in a crash along the Agaie-Lapai Road in Niger State.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the accident occurred on Saturday when a truck driver lost control and rammed into tankers parked by the roadside.

The Chairman, Agaie Local Government Area, Ibrahim Sayuti, confirmed the incident in a statement on Sunday.

Sayuti blamed the accident on the dilapidated road, adding that accidents had become a regular occurrence on the road.

"This is not the first time this is happening this same year; we had a situation of tankers carrying petroleum products also losing control and getting burnt with many lives lost.

"The condition of the road is also affecting the economic activities of the local government and communities, as that road is the easiest route that links western Nigeria to Northern states," he added.

The Commander, Federal Road Safety Corps, Niger State, Kumar Tsukwam, said the accident was caused by wrongful overtaking, adding that 12 persons lost their lives in the crash.

In a related development, three persons have been confirmed dead in a road accident on Akure-Owo Expressway, Akure, Ondo State.

It was gathered that 12 people



*• Scene of an accident*

were also injured in the crash which involved a Toyota Sienna bus with number plate, LND 778 YG, and an 18-passenger bus with number plate, KTN 298 YJ.

According to an eyewitness, the accident happened on Sunday when the two vehicles collided.

The eyewitness, who did not want to be identified, said the driver of the Toyota Sienna attempted to overtake a trailer when he collided with the bus, which was said to be coming from Lagos State.

The FRSC Sector Commander, Mr Ezekiel SonAllah, confirmed the incident.

He said the crash happened around 5.50am and was caused by wrongful overtaking and speed violation.

He said, "Immediately the incident happened, we took the injured victims to the General Hospital, Akure, for treatment, while the dead bodies were deposited in the same hospital mortuary. I wish to call on the general public to avoid night travelling because of the hazard involved."