

Nine killed, 24 injured in Bauchi, Ogun crashes

Armstrong Bakam and
Daud Olatunji

TRAGEDY struck on Christmas Day when no fewer than nine people lost their lives and 24 were injured in separate road accidents in Bauchi and Ogun states.

Six people died in a lone crash at Sabuwar Miya along Kafin Madaki-Ningi Road in the Ganijuwa Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

PUNCH Metro gathered that 16 others sustained varying degrees of injury in the crash, which occurred around 11.50am on Sunday.

The Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Corps, Bauchi State, Yusuf Abdullahi, confirmed the crash to journalists.

He noted that the accident involved a white Toyota Hiace bus belonging to the Bauchi State Government.

He said, "Immediately we got the call, our men rushed to the scene within 20 minutes



• Scenes of the Kara crash

for a rescue operation. They evacuated the victims and rushed them to the Kafin Madaki General Hospital.

"It was when they got there that a medical doctor confirmed six people killed. Sixteen others sustained various degrees of injury.

"There were a total of 22



people, consisting of two male adults, four male children, 10 female adults and six female children, on the bus when it crashed.

"Those killed were two female adults, two male children and two female children.

"Those who sustained

bruises and fractures were two male adults, two male children, eight female adults and four female children."

Abdullahi said the crash might have been caused by a tyre burst which led to a loss of control.

In a related development, three persons lost their lives while six others sustained injuries in an accident at the Kara, Ogun State end of the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

Our correspondent learnt that the accident occurred around 5.50am at the Kara turning of the highway.

The Public Education Officer of the FRSC in Ogun State, Florence Okpe, confirmed the accident in a statement on Sunday.

Okpe said 18 persons, who were all male adults, were involved in the accident caused by speed and wrongful overtaking.

She explained that two vehicles which were involved in the accident were a Toyota Hiace bus with the number

plate, AYB 88 XP, and another vehicle with no number plate.

She said, "Six persons sustained various degrees of injury and unfortunately three persons were recorded dead from the crash and the remaining people were unhurt.

"The suspected cause of the crash was excessive speed from the bus driver who made an attempt to overtake the truck, but was not successful; rather, he lost control and hit the truck at the rear and the truck did not stop."

Man in court for defrauding church

Naomi Chima

THE police have arraigned a man, Daniel Ogbonna, before a Yaba Magistrate's Court, Lagos State, for allegedly obtaining N1.4m from some residents under the pretext of investing the money in a scheme and paying back N5m within six weeks.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the complainant met the defendant at a Catholic church, where the latter claimed to be a member.

Ogbonna was alleged to have also claimed that investors in the scheme, tagged, Grace Families and Friends, met regularly on the church premises.

The police prosecutor, Haruna Magaji, told the court that the defendant committed the offence in August 2021 at the Saint Dominic's Catholic Church, Yaba, Lagos State, together with one Ngozi Ugwu, a worker in the administrative unit of the church.

According to him, the offences contravene sections 411, 168, 315 (1) and punishable under Section 316(b) of the Criminal Law of Lagos State of Nigeria, 2015.

The charges read in part, "That you, Daniel Ogbonna, and others at large, between August 19, 2021, till date at the Saint Dominic's Catholic Church, Yaba, in the Lagos