

15 die in Lagos, Bauchi road crashes

DAUD OLATUNJI and
ARMSTRONG BAKAM

FIFTEEN persons lost their lives in road accidents which occurred on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway and Bauchi State on Saturday.

Ten persons lost their lives and two others sustained varying degrees of injury during the road accident on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway. The incident occurred at Oniworo village along the expressway.

The Bauchi multiple accident which recorded five deaths occurred in the early hours of Saturday at Kili Village, along Darazo-Kari road, Darazo Local Government Area of the state. Twelve people sustained varying degrees of injury in the accident.

The Public Education Officer of the Ogun State Command of the Federal Road Safety

Corps, Florence Okpe, confirmed the incident.

In a statement, Okpe said that the accident involved two vehicles; a Toyota Hiace bus with registration numbers KLD 539 XA and a mack container truck with no registration number.

She added that the crash was caused by road obstruction on the part of the truck and speeding by the bus.

Okpe said the Toyota bus lost control while speeding and ran into the obstructing truck from the rear.

She stated, "The fatal crash occurred in the early hours this morning (Saturday) at about 0430hrs on the Lagos-Ibadan expressway around Oniworo area. A total of 19 persons were involved in the crash which comprised 13 males and six females. Two persons sustained injuries; two males and 10 died; seven males, two females and one female child, while the remaining persons were unhurt. Two vehicles were involved, a Toyota Hiace bus with registration number

KLD 539 XA and a mack container truck, with no registration number on it. The suspected causes of the crash were road obstruction on the part of the truck and excessive speed by the driver of the Toyota bus which led to loss of control and ran into the truck at the rear."

Okpe added that the injured victims were taken to a hospital in Ogere for medical attention, noting that corpses were deposited at Ipara morgue.

Commenting on the Bauchi crash, FRSC Sector Commander in the state, Yusuf Abdullahi, said that the crash involved two vehicles, a commercial Hiace bus belonging to the National Union of Road Transport Workers and another commercial vehicle, a white Peugeot boxer.

Abdullahi said, "The multiple crashes occurred at RS 12.12 Darazo, Zebra 45 at Kili Village along Darazo-Kari road on Saturday, January 14, 2023, at about 1.37am. Immediately

we were called, our men rushed to the scene within nine minutes for a rescue operation. There were a total of 21 people involved in the crash, made up of 16 male adults and five female adults. The rescue team evacuated them and rushed them to the Darazo General Hospital, for treatment and confirmation. Unfortunately, when they got to the hospital, a medical doctor confirmed five people, three male adults and two male adults, dead.

"Twelve others comprising 10 male adults and two female adults sustained varying degrees of bruises. The corpses were deposited at the morgue of the General Hospital Darazo. The rescue team returned to the base successfully. The crash was caused by dangerous driving. I want to once again call on the drivers to always abide by the laid down road traffic rules and regulations to avoid these crashes that often lead to loss of lives and property."