

# 18 die in Kano crash, FRSC boss warns against overloading

Ted Odogwu, Kano

**F**OLLOWING a crash that occurred on Friday at Zakirai town on Kano Ringim Road in the Gabasawa Local Government Area of Kano State in which 18 persons were burnt to death, the Corps Marshal, Federal Road Safety Corps, Dauda Biu, has cautioned motorists against dangerous overtaking, overloading and night travels.

While confirming the crash earlier, the Kano State Sector Commander of the FRSC, Ibrahim Abdullahi, said 12 other passengers suffered varying degrees of injuries in the crash, while five others escaped unhurt.

**PUNCH Metro** gathered that some of the deceased in the crash



Biu

that involved two commercial vehicles were given mass burial at the accident scene while the

remains of others were handed over to their relatives.

One of the vehicles, a Volkswagen Sharon with number plate WRW243AA

was said to be overloaded with children while the second vehicle, a Toyota bus was also overloaded.

The driver of the Volkswagen Sharon was also accused of dangerous and wrongful overtaking.

Abdullahi, who made the confirmation in a press statement by the sector's spokesman,

Abdullahi Labaran, on Sunday, attributed the accident to speeding, dangerous driving and overloading, which he said resulted in a head-on collision and the bursting into flames of one of the vehicles.

"The accident involved a total of 35 passengers in two buses, out of which 18 were burnt beyond recognition, while 12 others suffered varying degrees of serious injuries," he said.

Ibrahim, who disclosed that the injured victims were rushed to the Murtala Mohammed General Hospital, Kano, advised motorists to avoid speeding, overloading, wrongful overtaking, dangerous driving and any infraction that could lead to road crashes.

Meanwhile, the Corps

Marshal also called for patience and collective vigilance on the roads to avoid unnecessary and unwarranted road accidents.

In a statement by the Corps Public Education Officer, Assistant Corps Marshal Bisi Kazeem, on Sunday, the Corps

Marshal identified overloading and night travels as some of the problems confronting the agency. Biu said all hands must be

on the deck to ensure that overloading is reduced to the barest minimum, if not completely eradicated.

## One dies, eight injured in Lagos-Ibadan Expressway crash

Toni Ufoh

**O**NE person was said to have died in an accident which involved a Volkswagen bus that occurred on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway on Sunday.

Eight others were said to have been injured in the crash that occurred in the Warewa area of the Long Bridge inward Ibadan around 10.12am.

Our correspondent, who was at the scene of the accident, gathered



The affected vehicle

that the accident occurred due to speeding on the part of the driver of the vehicle with the number plate APP 47 YA.

The vehicle conveying 10 persons was said to have somersaulted along the Long Bridge when the driver lost control.

An eyewitness, Gambo Sule, said, "I was here when this thing happened and I saw the bus somersaulting. Some people rescued the bus passengers. Many of the passengers had just a few injuries. Policemen and the FRSC officials later came and took the injured people to the hospital."

Another eyewitness, Seyi Oladapo, also said, "Many of the passengers were injured but one of them died. The police and the FRSC stationed at Warewa came and took the injured passengers and the corpse to the hospital."

The Public Education Officer, Federal Road Safety Corps, Ogun State Sector, Florence Okpe, confirmed the accident in an interview with our correspondent while attributing it to speeding.

She said, "10 adult males were involved in the accident and one of them died while eight others were injured. The FRSC officials went there immediately and they moved the injured victims to the hospital. The corpse was also taken to the mortuary," she said.

## NDLEA seizes 390kg illicit drugs in four states

Abiodun Samusi, Abuja

**OPERATIVES** of the



psychoactive substance, while another suspect, Alhaji Abubakar,

30, and 31.2kg of cannabis was recovered from him, while two suspects - Doti Adedokun 25 and

## Estate developer in court for duping church of N65m