

Two die, 10 injured in Lagos

Temitope Aina

TWO persons died while 10 others were injured in two separate crashes that occurred on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway on Monday as the world welcomed the New Year's Day with celebrations.

PUNCH Metro gathered that a lone crash that occurred at about 8am around Isara Remo headquarters of Remo North Local Government Area of Ogun State along Lagos-Ibadan Expressway led to the death of two passengers while three others were injured.

The injured victims were said to have been taken to Victory Hospital Ogere for medical attention while the corpses were deposited at the Isara General Hospital morgue.

According to a statement by the spokesperson for the Ogun State Sector Command of Federal Road Safety Corps, Florence Okpe, on Monday, the accident was blamed on excessive speed involving a Toyota car with

registration number TTD985AA.

The statement partly reads, "The crash occurred at about 0800hrs on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway. A total of five persons were involved which comprised of three male children, one male adult and one female adult.

"Three persons were injured (one female adult, one male adult and one male child).

"Two people were killed (two male children) while one vehicle was involved with registration number TTD985AA Toyota car.

"The suspected cause of the lone crash was excessive speed and the vehicle suddenly lost control and ran into a ditch."

In yet another accident involving a commercial Mazda bus with registration number, SKD-798XN, seven people were injured after the vehicle caught fire on the Arepo bus stop on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

PUNCH Metro learnt that seven of the 14 persons involved in the accident were seriously injured, with seven of them



• The accident scene. Photo: Temitope Aina

escaping death.

An eyewitness who spoke with our correspondent, Gabriel, claimed that more than 18 passengers, including children, were involved in the accident that occurred in the early hours of the New Year.

He said, "The accident

happened in the morning and it was a serious accident. The tyres of the bus busted. I think the passengers were more than 18 because I know they were babies in the vehicles and some people got burnt completely."

Another eyewitness simply identified as Samson added that

-Ibadan Expressway crashes

some officials of the Federal Road Safety Corps immediately rushed some of the victims to a nearby hospital in the state.

Samson said, "The accident was serious and few people were badly injured. The victims were lucky because people were around to quench the fire quickly. Some officials of FRSC came to carry some of the victims to one hospital in Arepo while they took some victims to Magboro or Mowe hospital."

When contacted, the Ogun Sector Commander, FRSC, Okpe, said the Mazda bus with the registration number SKD-798XN tyres busted as a result of speeding, which caused the vehicle to somersault.

Okpe added that seven people were injured and were taken to the AZ Medical Care Hospital in Magboro, Ogun State.

"Fourteen people were involved in the accident but none was killed. It is a Mazda bus with registration number SKD-798XN. However, seven people got injured and they included five

males and two females. The bus was at an excessive speed and

lost control which led to the tyres busting on the road. The victims

were taken to the AZ Medical Care Hospital," she said.

Blind mother seeks Lagos CP's help over missing child

Dayo Oyewo

A visually impaired mother, Agnes Forte, has appealed to the Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Fayode Adegoke, to intervene in the search for her missing one-year-old baby, Excel.

Agnes had raised the alarm over the disappearance of Excel on Tuesday, November 28, in the Akowonjo area of Lagos State.

Speaking with our PUNCH Metro on Sunday, the distraught mother said the development had brought untold trauma to her household.

She said, "Since Excel went missing, I and my husband have never been ourselves. I feel more pained because of my condition which has made it impossible for me to join the search for her whereabouts. The day the incident happened, we reported

to the police station. They asked us to write a statement; we have not heard anything since then.

"They have not even visited our place. The officers we met at the station we went to around the Shasha area during the search told us that the police station we first reported the incident to should have radioed the information the moment we reported it, saying that would have given us a chance to locate their whereabouts. It looks like the police are not taking our case seriously because we are poor. We are calling on the Lagos State Commissioner of Police to please intervene in our case."

Agnes, in an interview with our correspondent on December 10, told our correspondent that Excel was in the company of her stepsister, Joy, when she was last seen.

According to her, she was in the room when the 13-year-old Joy and Excel were both playing along the corridor of their apartment.

She explained that she could no longer hear their voices after a while, and attempts to locate their whereabouts since then had been unsuccessful.

She said, "We had just finished eating when my baby opened the door and stepped outside to play. That was when I called Joy to go and bring her back. But she refused to come in when my sister tried to bring her back. So, I told them not to go beyond the corridor. A few minutes later, Joy came inside and went out again to meet Excel. Then, I started to hear her sing, "Jumping, jumping" three times and I did not hear them again. After a while, I called their names and none of them answered.

"I had to quickly call my neighbours who looked around but did not see them. I quickly woke my first daughter who was sleeping on the bed because she was not feeling fine. I told her to help me go out and look for Joy and Jessica. The moment I opened my bag to pick up something, I discovered my money and ATM card had been taken. I also got to know that she had packed some of her clothes. Jessica later came back home to tell me that she saw Joy running away. I alerted the neighbours again and they went around but did not see them."

odlums kill Lagos police officer

doctor on duty.

"We learnt that some thugs attacked the policeman who was not in uniform. We did not know why he was attacked. When police officers in Jambutu got to



attackers, who were behind it and what prompted it. As soon as that is done, we will make sure the law takes its course.

"We condemn the incident in totality. The life of a policeman

in Adamawa

Was he on casual leave, annual leave, on special assignments or whatever? But right now, I cannot ascertain what brought him here.

But actually, he is confirmed dead and the command is investigating the circumstances that led to his death."

Man machetes brother to death over alleged sexual demand