

13 killed, 21 injured in Kogi, Benue

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THE Federal Road Safety Corps, on Monday, said 13 persons died while 21 were injured in separate auto crashes in Kogi and Benue states.

The Kogi FRSC Sector Commander, Samuel Oyedeji, informed journalists in Lokoja that the tragic incident in Kogi occurred around 7.30pm on Sunday.

Oyedeji said the Kogi accident, involving a commercial Sharon bus and an articulated cement truck,

took place near Obajana Market on the Obajana-Lokoja Road in the Lokoja Local Government Area of the state.

The sector commander explained that the Sharon bus had stopped behind a truck around the market for passengers to make purchases when the cement truck lost its brakes and rammed into it from behind.

"As soon as the truck rammed into the bus, it immediately caught fire and engulfed virtually all the passengers inside it. Also burnt were the bus, two trucks, and a motorcycle.



• An accident scene

The bus was reportedly en route to Abuja from the southern part of the

country.

"Our personnel, who were on rescue operations with

auto crashes

the Red Cross Nigeria and police officers, were unable to contain the situation due to the intensity of the fire.

"But the charred remains of the affected persons were collected while the two injured persons have been taken to Fisayo Hospital, Obajana, for medical attention."

Oyedeji expressed concern that no hospital in Kogi agreed to accommodate the charred bodies, which might compel the authorities to conduct a mass burial if no relatives come forward.

The sector commander,

describing the incident as "very sad and unfortunate," cautioned motorists against speeding and neglecting the maintenance of their vehicles.

In Benue, 19 persons were injured in an auto crash that occurred at Tyoor village on the Makurdi-Gboko Road of the state.

The accident was said to have happened at about 4pm on Easter Sunday due to overtaking.

According to the Sector Commander of the Benue State FRSC, Steve Ayodele, the auto crash involved

two vehicles – a Ford and a Toyota Hiace bus.

Ayodele said, "Nineteen people (including nine males and 10 females) were injured in the crash out of 26 passengers. They (the victims) sustained different degrees of injuries."

He blamed the cause of the crash on wrongful overtaking.

The sector commander said the injured passengers were already receiving treatment at a hospital.

Meanwhile, following the Kogi accident, the Corps Marshal, FRSC, Dauda Biu, has directed the Kogi State Sector Commander, Oyedeji, to commence a detailed investigation which will lead to the prosecution

of drivers responsible for the crash.

A statement by the FRSC spokesperson, Jonas Agwu, stated on Monday that the prosecution of the drivers would be carried out due to the recent collaboration of the corps with the Nigerian Bar Association and the State Judiciary.

Biu noted that the drivers responsible for these occurrences will not go scot-free.

"They are going to be prosecuted in accordance with the provisions of the National Road Traffic Regulations 2012 and those found guilty will bear the consequences of their actions," Biu was quoted as saying.

FRSC blames speeding as Lagos crash leaves two injured