

16 die, 5 injured in Gombe, Kogi auto crashes

THE Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in Gombe and Kogi states have confirmed the death of 16 people in auto crashes that occurred in the two states, on Wednesday night and yesterday.

The Corps Commander, FRSC, Gombe State Command, Mr Felix Theman, who confirmed Wednesday's crash in the state, yesterday, said that the accident occurred at Bomala junction bye-pass at about 8:40pm.

Theman said the accident was as a result of brake failure from a trailer conveying gallons of vegetable oil. He said that 20 people were involved in the crash with 11 sustaining various degrees of injury.

He said the injured people were taken to the Gombe Specialists Hospital and Federal Teaching Hospital, Gombe (FTHG) for treatment. He also disclosed that the bodies of the seven dead people were deposited in the Specialist Hospital's mortuary, while two others were deposited at the FTHG mortuary.

He said 21 vehicles were involved in the accidents, including tricycles and motorcycles.

The man cautioned drivers against speeding, especially in built-up areas, adding that the speed limit for such areas must not exceed 40km/h.

"If you look at what happened in Bomala Junction, the driver was speeding and it is a built-up area, and when the break failed, see what we have."

He said that if drivers complied with speed limits, damage from accidents would be minimised.

"Imagine the number of vehicles, loss of lives and the damage; we must prioritise our safety and those of others

while using the roads.

"A survey has been done on the route by our command, and we will be putting up a comprehensive report to the state government, for immediate, medium and long term actions," he said.

The sector commander advised residents of the state to desist from encroaching on

roads and prioritise their safety above other interests.

Also, no fewer than seven people died and five others injured in the Kogi auto-head-on-collision crash yesterday.

The Kogi Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Mr Stephen Dawulung, who made the disclosure in Lokoja, yesterday, said the

incident occurred around 4.40am yesterday, when a Toyota Hiace bus had a head-on-collision with a DAF Articulated Vehicle, at Akpanya, near Koton Karfe, on Abuja-Lokoja road.

"When the two vehicles collided, seven people died instantly and five others sustained injuries. Our officers,

who quickly rushed to the scene when alerted, were able to evacuate the victims, especially the injured, for medical attention.

"Already the injured were rushed to Koton Karfe Hospital, where they are being treated by medical personnel, while the corpses are deposited at the mortuary," he said.

(Continued on www.sunnewsonline.com)

Police arrest B'Haram bomb manufacturer in Taraba

• Recover explosives, other ammunition

From **Sylvanus Viashima**, Jalingo

THE Taraba State Police command has arrested 37-year-old bomb manufacturer for the Boko Haram terrorist group linked to the recent bomb

blasts that rocked the state.

The state Commissioner of Police, Abimbola Sokoya, who confirmed this at a press briefing in Jalingo, yesterday, said that the man was arrested in the Tella area of Gassol Local Government in the State.

Ezu River killings: MASSOB clears Obi

• Cautions Simon Ekpa against blackmail

From **Magnus Eze**, Enugu

THE Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) has counselled self-styled Biafra activist, Simon Ekpa, to desist from dragging the good name of former Anambra State governor and presidential candidate of the Labour Party in next year's general elections, Peter Obi, into the dastard killing of its members in the state in 2013.

Communique from the National Executive meeting of MASSOB, presided by its leader, Uchenna Madu, averred that it was the disbanded notorious Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) of the Nigeria Police that massacred their members in January 2013, and dumped their bodies in Ezu River, Amansea, in Anambra

State.

The group, which named the former Commander of SARS in the state, James Nwafor, as responsible, urged Ekpa to stop distorting facts.

A statement by National Director of Information, Comrade Edeson Samuel, called for the immediate release of leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), Nnamdi Kanu, declaring that continuous arrest and detention of agitators would neither break the spirit of Biafra struggle nor jeopardise its actualisation and restoration.

"Though MASSOB quest for Biafra actualisation and restoration can never be abandoned or jeopardised, our belief in Biafra is infallible and unshakable.

"We advise the oppressed,

Sokoya disclosed that the breakthrough came after the suspect had attempted to assassinate a resident of Gunduma village in Mutum Biyu, but was overwhelmed by the security agencies and subdued.

He said that in the course of investigation, the suspect con-

fessed that he was a member of the Boko Haram terrorist group and has operated in Kogi and Niger states before he moved to Taraba and joined armed robbery and kidnapping groups.

"This press briefing is in line with our tradition of keeping the press updated with timely and accurate information on happenings in our line of duty towards promoting necessary awareness for security of lives and property in Taraba State.

"Taraba State Police Command is working hard to ensure that the state is not a safe haven for criminals and unscrupulous elements. During the period under review, the Command has put in enormous efforts, in order to reduce crime and criminality, and has achieved results.

"On 9/6/2022, at about 2100hrs, one Bala Usman 'm' of Tella Town, Gassol Local Government Area, who armed himself with a pistol scorpion, loaded with seven rounds of live ammunition, went to the house of Usman Yaki 'm' of Gunduma village, via Mutum Biyu town, attempted to kill him. The suspect fired one round of live ammunition, and the police were alerted, in collaboration with the vigilante, and the suspect was subdued and arrested.

(Continued on www.sunnewsonline.com)