

9 die, scores injured in Bauchi, Lagos-Ibadan roads crashes

TRAGEDY struck yesterday when six people died in a road crash in Sabuwar Miya village of Ganjuwa Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

The Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Yusuf Abdullahi, made the disclosure, yesterday, in a road traffic report in Bauchi. The FRSC boss added that 16 other people were injured in the crash. He said the one accident, which involved one Toyota Hiace bus with registration number BA124 AO6, happened around 11:50 a.m.

He said it took the personnel of the corps barely 20 minutes to arrive at the scene of the crash to clear the site. The sector commander attributed the cause of the crash to tyre burst and loss of control.

"Twenty-two people were involved in the fatal road crash and there were two male adults, four male children, 10 female adults and six female children.

Six of them lost their lives on the spot and there are two female adults, two male children and two female children.

Abdullahi also stated that both the injured person and the remains of the deceased had been taken to the Kafin Madaki General Hospital for treatment and confirmation. He added that arrangements had been made to transfer the injured to the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital (ATBU-TH) for further treatments.

The sector commander, however, advised road users to always be conscious of traffic rules and regulations while playing the roads. He urged vehicle owners and drivers to always ensure good tyres, average speed, routine vehicle maintenance and sound state of mind while driving.

Also, three people died

yesterday while six others sustained varying degrees of injuries in an accident along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway. The accident occurred at 5:50am at the Kara turning of the highway.

The Public Education Officer, FRSC, Ogun State, Florence Okpe, said 18 people – all

male adults – were involved in the accident.

She said: "Six people sustained various degrees of injuries and, unfortunately, three people were recorded dead from the crash and the remaining people were unhurt. Two vehicles were involved in

the accident. A Toyota Hiace bus with registration number, AYB 88 XP and another vehicle with no registration number on it.

"The suspected cause of the crash was excessive speed from the bus driver who made an attempt to overtake the

truck, but was not successful, rather he lost control and hit the truck at the rear and the truck did not stop. The injured victims were taken to Farnobis Hospital for medical attention, while the dead bodies were deposited at Idera Hospital morgue Sagamu."

Christmas cow kills Bayelsa ex-youth president

From **Femi Folaranmi**, Yenagoa

TRAGEDY struck on Christmas Eve in Obogoro community, Yenagoa Local Government Area when a cow slated to be killed revolted and killed a former youth president of the community, Mr Sobokime Igodo.

Investigations revealed the deceased and a group of friends had contributed money to buy the cow to kill and share for the Yuletide season, as they normally did every year. Further findings revealed that at the deceased's residence where the sharing was to take place, the two butchers hired were unable to make the cow stand and they kept attempting to find a way to kill it.

The deceased, who was inside the house had come out, but was on a call and was not paying attention to the drama between the two butchers and the cow when, all of a sudden, the cow got up and charged towards the deceased, kicked him so hard that he landed on his back and broke his spine.

He was said to have been rushed to the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Yenagoa before he was referred to the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, Rivers State where he eventually died.

A family source, in an interview, said the circumstances surrounding the death of So-

bokime was a devastating one for the family and the Obogoro community. He said his death has ruined the air of festivities for the family and the youths of Obogoro.

Meanwhile, Bayelsa State has been thrown into mourning following the death of one-time senator representing Bayelsa East, Senator Inatimi Rufus Spiff, a one-time Secretary to the old Rivers State Government, under governor

Rufus Ada George was also a former Commissioner for Education in Bayelsa State.

Until his death he was the Chairman of the Reconciliation Committee of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). His death is a big blow to the PDP in Bayelsa East, especially Brass Local Government Area, where he has been a backbone for the party. One of his political associates and PDP candidate for Nembe/

Brass Federal Constituency, Maria Ebikake, described his death as painful.

"The distinguished Senator is an icon that will be sorely missed not only by his family, but by all whose lives he touched during his illustrious and brief political life," she said.

Sources said his community, Twon Brass Island, was thrown into mourning when news of his death filtered into the community.

Police drill man, 80, others over oil pollution compensation fund

From **Tony John**, Port Harcourt

MEMBERS of the 13-member disbursement committee of Ejamah-Ebubu, Eleme Local Government Area (LGA) of Rivers State (aka C-13), including its 80-year-old chairman, Augustus Nyonwi, were allegedly subjected to intensive interrogation that lasted for several hours by the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) recently.

Daily Sun gathered that the interrogation, which started at about 12 noon, ended at about 5pm at the weekend, when the people were allowed to go home.

However, the committee members said it was better than being dragged to Abuja as has been the practice in the past. They thanked the Inspec-

tor General of Police (IGP), Usman Baba, for getting the officers to obey court judgement in a case bordering on disbursement of oil spill compensation funds, which they handled.

The members also expressed gratitude to the state Commissioner of Police (CP), Effiong Okon, for his interventions which they suspected was the reason they were not arrested and detained by the police after their invitation at the SCID, in Port Harcourt.

The C-13, who spoke through their lawyer, Ayodele Salami, expressed satisfaction in the outcome of the police invitation to his clients, saying that it was within the provisions of the court order in an ongoing court case on the matter.

Salami said: "I can confirm to you that the meeting

between my clients C-13 and the police went very well. My clients said statements were taken from them and after, they were asked to go home and come back on a date in January.

"I am grateful to the IGP and the CP here in the state for their quick intervention, after the media outburst last time. What transpired yesterday was contrary to what had been going on.

"So, we're happy that the police hierarchy has done a swift and great job here.

"Again, contrary to the feelers we got before the C-13 got to the police, some officers from Force headquarters in Abuja were already around to take them down to Abuja as usual. It was confirmed, again, that there was no such thing. (Continued on www.sunnewsonline.com)