

39 killed in Kebbi, Bauchi auto crashes

THE Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) has confirmed reckless driving in Kebbi.

the death of 39 people in three auto crashes that occurred in Kebbi State and Bauchi State in the past three days.

The FRSC Sector Commander in Kebbi State, Mr Yusuf Aliyu-Haruna, said 35 people were killed in two auto crashes that occurred in Kebbi on Sunday and on Monday.

Aliyu-Haruna, who made the disclosure in Birnin Kebbi, yesterday, said 40 other people sustained varying degrees of injuries in the accidents which involved three vehicles.

"Twelve people lost their lives in the accident which occurred on Kalgo-Bunza Road on Sunday, involving two vehicles. On Monday, 23 people lost their lives, while travelling in a truck carrying assorted grains from Illela to Ibadan on Jega-Koko Road. Injured victims were taken to General Hospitals in Kalgo and Jega Local Government Areas," he said.

Aliyu-Haruna attributed the accidents to overloading, over-speeding and use of expired tyres. He cautioned motorists, especially commercial vehicle drivers against excessive speeding and use of expired tyres, so as to ensure safety on the highways.

The sector commander advised motorists against the consumption of illicit substances and urged passengers to support the crusade against

3 In Bauchi, tragedy struck in Dass Local Government Area as four people died in an auto crash.

The state Sector Commander, FRSC, Yusuf Abdullahi, yesterday, said five other people sustained serious injuries in the crash. He said the lone accident involved a green commercial Ford Galaxy vehicle with nine passengers on

board.

"Nine people were involved in the fatal road crash and they were eight male adults and one female adult. Four male adults lost their lives on the spot, while five others — four male adults and one female adult — sustained varying degrees of serious injuries," he said.

Abdullahi, who attributed the crash to a burst tyre and loss of control, said it occurred

Kidnappers of 4 INEC officials, 2 corps members demand N50m ransom

From Emmanuel Adeyemi, Lokoja

THE abductors of officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Kogi State during the March 19 general elections are demanding N50 million ransom before they would release their victims.

Contrary to police claim that they had rescued all the kidnap victims, six of the INEC officials, including two corps members are still in the kidnappers' den.

Some INEC staff were abducted in Obajana at the early hours of Sunday, March 19, 2023, during the Kogi State House of Assembly election. The victims were said to be returning from Kupa North and South, under Lokoja Local Government Area in Kogi State, before they were attacked by armed hoodlums.

But the Police Public Rela-

tion Officer (PPRO) in Kogi State, William Ovyo Aya, had, in a statement issued to journalists on the incident, said 96 people were rescued by the police, three injured, while two victims were yet to be accounted for.

Addressing a press conference, on Monday, on behalf of the kidnap victims' families, an Assistant Presiding Officer II (APO II) in the March 18 Kogi House of Assembly election, identified as Babalola Oluwatobi Peter, said his sister was part of those still held in captivity.

Peter, who is a brother to one of the victims, faulted the claim of the Nigeria Police Force that all the victims have been rescued. He mentioned those still in the hands of the kidnappers as Muhammed Maimunat and Abdulrahman Raji, who are both serving corps members. INEC Ad-Hoc staff who are still in captivity,

at about 10.30am. He said that it took the corps barely 15 minutes to arrive at the crash scene to clear the site. The sector commander said both the injured and the bodies of the deceased were taken to the General Hospital, Dass for treatment and confirmation. He advised motorists to always be conscious of traffic rules and regulations while plying the roads.

according to Peter, are Oyaniran Atinuke Ruth, Florence Shayo Ajayi, Opara Tina and Blessing.

Explaining how the ugly incident occurred on that day, Peter said: "We were actually coming from Kupa North and South for the Kogi State House of Assembly election. I worked in the North, so we left North some minutes past six and we got to the South at 8:03pm in which we were asked to move to Lokoja by our SPOs. I told them personally that we are not going, that they should allow us to sleep, that by 4am the next day, we should pick up and go, just like the way we did during the presidential election.

"But the SPO South said he wanted to move. As an APO two, I could not just tell them no. All other corps members said we should sleep over, but they refused.

(Continued on www.sunnewsonline.com)