

22 killed in Lagos, Nasarawa auto crashes

...container falls on car, motorcycles ... Benue Links bus collides with trailer

Muritala Ayinla and Cephas Iorhemen

At least 22 people lost their lives in auto accidents which occurred in parts of Lagos and Nasarawa states.

Five were killed in two accidents which occurred in Ikorodu and Lekki areas of Lagos metropolis while 17 others were feared dead in Nasarawa auto crash.

Two people died on Sunday when a container fell off an articulated vehicle and landed on a Toyota Camry car and three motorcycles at Ikorodu.

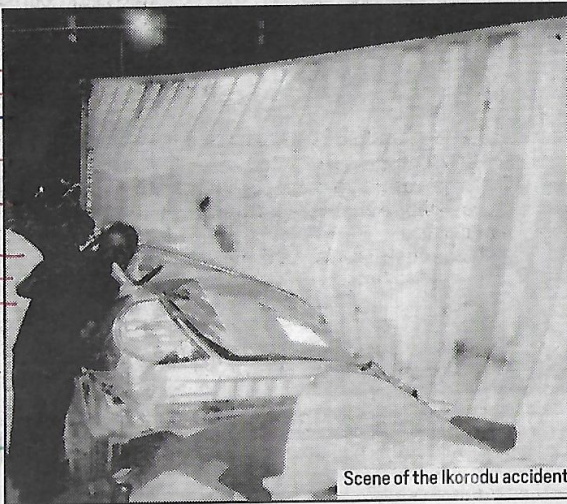
The accident, witnesses said, occurred at the popular Agric Bus Stop in Ikorodu about 11 p.m. on Sunday.

Three people were also killed in the second accident, which occurred yesterday morning at the Lekki area of the metropolis.

In the Ikorodu accident, the truck marked LSD 611 XU with a 20ft container loaded with unknown items, reportedly had a brake failure, lost control and subsequently fell on the Toyota Camry with registration number PKJ 732 FS and the three motorcycles.

The accident caused commotion in the area as sympathisers and other road users tried desperately to assist the trapped victims.

The General Manager, Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA), Dr. Olufemi Oke-Oke-Osanyintolu, said bodies of the victims had been taken to the mortuary while the injured were treated by the Lagos State Ambulance Service (LASAMBUS) before they were moved to Ikorodu General



Scene of the Ikorodu accident

Hospital for further treatment.

Oke-Osanyintolu said that items recovered from the container and vehicles involved had been bagged and handed over to the police at Owutu Police Station.

He said: "The two bodies of the male victims have been taken to the mortuary while the injured, who were initially treated by LASAMBUS, have been moved to the Ikorodu General Hospital for further treatment. However, the commodities recovered from the container have been bagged and handed over to the police at Owutu. Operation has been completed."

It was learnt that the Lekki accident oc-

curred when the motorcyclist, Idoko Michael, was trying to avoid hitting a crossing pedestrian, Gbenga Oloruniyi, the truck rammed into the pedestrian, the motorcyclist and a yet-to-be-identified passenger.

Oke-Osanyintolu said the three people died in the accident.

He added that items belonging to the victims had been packed and handed over to the State Environment and Health Monitoring Unit (SEHMU), an agency responsible for taking care of the corpses.

The LASEMA boss said the truck had also been moved off the road

to ensure free flow of traffic.

He said: "On getting to the incident scene, it was observed that a MACK truck with registration number KSF 100 XY, an unidentified bike and pedestrians were involved in the accident."

"Investigations conducted at the scene revealed that while the bike rider, Idoko Michael, was trying to avoid hitting a crossing pedestrian, identified as Gbenga Oloruniyi, an incoming truck unavoidably ran into the pedestrian, the bike rider and an unidentified passenger."

"Unfortunately, the three adult males lost

their lives as a result of the incident. Also the truck has been recovered off the road with the aid of the LCC heavy tow truck to ensure continuous vehicular activities."

Meanwhile, 17 people were killed yesterday when a 14-seater 'Bumper' bus belonging to Benue Links Transport Company crashed in Nasarawa State.

The accident occurred near a sharp bend before Akwanga hills.

The bus conveying passengers from Abuja to Makurdi collided with a trailer.

Witnesses said a female passenger survived the accident while the rest, including the driver, all lost their lives.

Governor Samuel Ortom has commiserated with families of those who died in the accident, which occurred near Unguwan Ciyawa in Eggon Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

The governor, in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Terver Akase, described the incident as painful.

Ortom described it as a sad moment for the entire state.

He directed the state Ministry of Works and Transport to liaise with the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) and the management of Benue Links Nigeria Limited to ensure that the survivors were given urgent attention, while the bodies of those who died should be properly deposited in the mortuary.

Ortom also gave assurance that government would support the treatment of the survivors and assist the bereaved families to bury their loved ones.

He prayed God to grant the victims eternal rest.

goods, two shops trade on cooked food,