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Six persons die as train rams into LASG staff bus

Six persons were confirmed dead and several others injured when a train rammed into a luxurious bus conveying some staff of the Lagos State Government to work at the PWD area of Ikeja.

It was learnt that the accident which occurred at about 8 am at the PWD level crossing, Ladipo bus stop, on the Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway, occurred when the driver reportedly attempted to cross the rail line in defiance of repeated warning signals from the oncoming train and the loaded bus subsequently got stuck on the rail tracks.

The bus which was coming from Ikotun, in the Alimosho area of the state, was less than five kilometres to its destination at the Lagos government secretariat, Alausa, Ikeja, when the accident occurred.

Scores of the injured passengers have been moved to the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH), Ikeja, where all routine services have been put on hold in order to attend to the victims.

The parking lot of the hospital's surgical emergency section

has been converted to a makeshift ward to cater to the flood of victims.

Hospital authorities are using a public address system to appeal to the crowd, including victims' relations, to volunteer to donate blood.

New Telegraph gathered that state officials and hospital authorities are also making arrangements to transfer some victims with less critical injuries and those that have been stabilised to other government health facilities in the state to decongest the LASUTH emergency section.

It was also gathered that the driver of the bus, identified by colleagues simply as Dayo, who reportedly escaped unhurt, is being detained at a police station in Ikeja.

Some of the earliest callers at LASUTH include the governorship candidate of the Labour Party in the state, Gbadebo Rhodes-Vivour, as well as the state's head of service, Hakeem Muri-Okunola and the commissioner for health, Prof Akin Abayomi.

Meanwhile, the state governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has

sympathised with the victims.

The governor, who was at LASUTH, said he was "deeply saddened" by the news of the accident.

In a message on his Twitter handle, the governor wrote, "I am deeply saddened by the news of the train/bus accident. The vehicle was conveying staff of the Lagos state government, our staff who serve the state in different capacities.

"Let's say a prayer for the families and a prayer of mercy and protection for our state.

"My thoughts are with the victims and their families during this difficult time.

"A big thank you to well-meaning Lagosians who immediately joined in rescue efforts. Our first responders and emergency services are on the ground and we will share more information shortly.

"Lagos State is mourning for the next three days, I am suspending all campaign activities, all flag will be flown at half mast and all civil servants would work till 12noon tomorrow before returning home, it is a critical period for some of the patients as we call for blood

donation from different state. This is a call for humanity to raise above all."

The South West Director of National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mr. Ibrahim Farinloye in a statement said two adult female staff of the State Government, one young male were recovered dead and eighty four injured victims rescued alive to Lagos State University Teaching Hospital Ikeja.

He said the train crash casualty are being treated. While those with minor injuries are being attended to in any available space while those with

critical injuries have been taken care of by the level of their injuries.

Treating of those with minor injuries can be done at the scene if the atmosphere is conducive, but otherwise hospital can do that and that exactly what the doctors are doing at LASUTH.

Meanwhile, the Director, Public Affairs and Enlightenment Department of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority, Adebayo Taofiq, also in a statement said the accident recorded many casualties as the staff bus was fully loaded with government staff going to the office.

...Crash bus driver to undergo psychiatric test – CP Railway

Taiwo Jimoh

The Commissioner of Police, Railway Command, CP Yetunde Longe, has said that the driver of the bus that crashed with a train is presently undergoing a psychiatric, physiological and drug test.

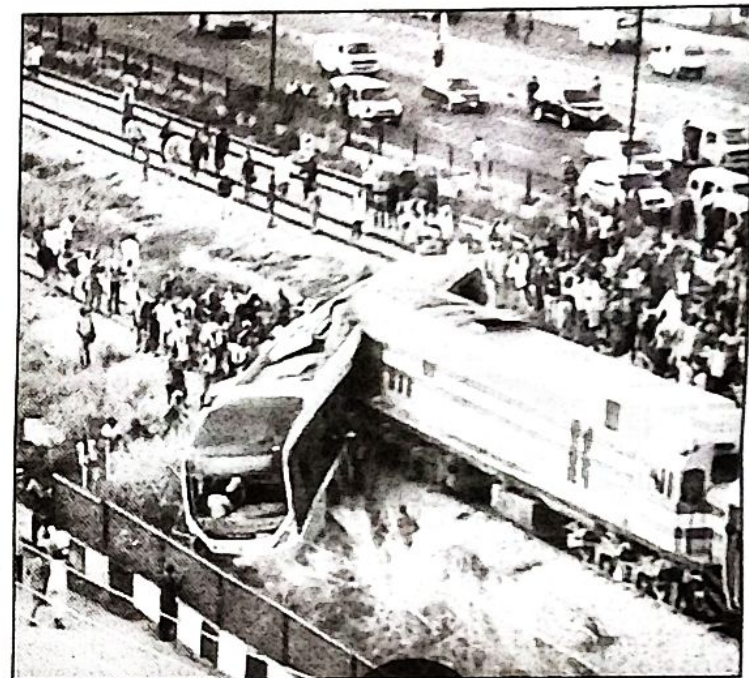
The driver who was brought to the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, LASUTH,

The CP who spoke with journalists said they are still investigating the number of people that died in the crash, as autopsy would be conducted on the remains of the victims on Friday.

She said: "Presently we are with the driver, we are handing him over to doctors for medical examination, because there was flag officer at the railway crossing flagging him down, but he refused to stop that is why we must

driver of the bus never obeyed the signal man, that was what caused the crash."

"The driver if found culpable would be prosecuted and we are working with the state department of public prosecution, they are gathering more evidence to prosecute him. The driver has been arrested and he is in our custody presently."



The accident scene