

10 Robbery Victims Crushed in Ondo, Three Die in Another Accident

Ten Abuja-bound luxury bus passengers, who were part of robbery victims, were early yesterday crushed to death by a Lagos-bound luxury bus at a point between Ilara Mokin and Igbaraoke on Ilesa-Akure Road in Ifedore Local Government area of Ondo State. Also in Akure, the state capital, three persons said to be students of the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA), on Monday evening died in a lone

ONDO

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accident that occurred around First Bank area of the town. The Ondo State Sector Commander of Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Alhaji Ahmed Hassan Kogari who narrated the incidents to journalists, said the luxury bus accidents occurred around

1:30am, when armed robbers numbering about 20 stopped an Abuja bound bus with the aim of robbing the passengers. Having succeeded in halting the vehicle which ran into the ambush, by firing shots into its tyres, the robbers reported to be speaking Chadian language, ordered all passengers to lie face down on the road.

At this point, another Lagos bound luxury bus while trying to escape from being robbed, crushed the passengers leaving ten

of them dead instantly. Unperturbed by the accident, the robbers were reported to continue their operation, shooting indiscriminately leaving other passengers with serious gunshot injuries despite dispossessing them of their valuables.

The robbers were said to have operated freely for hours on the road even after the accident. Meanwhile the mangled bodies of the victims had been deposited at the State Specialist Hospital, Akure while those injured were equally receiving treatment in various hospitals in the state capital. The FRSC Sector Commander blamed the accident on night travelling which the commission has been campaigning against over time. When contacted, the Public Relations Officer for the Police Command in Ondo State, Mr Aremu Adeniran, said the Divisional Police Officer for Igbaraoke, was yet to brief the command headquarters. The Akure lone accident involved a Honda Civic car which ran into street light pole with a concrete base at the First Bank area around 9:00 pm on Monday where two of the three occupants died instantly while the third person died later in the hospital.

The bodies of the lone accident victims had also been deposited at the morgue of the same state hospital while the accident was blamed on over speeding.

Assembly Freezes LG Account

The Adamawa State House of Assembly has frozen the account of all the 23 local government councils in the state. This followed a motion by the chairman of the public accounts committee, Hon. Juta Bapetel representing Fufore/Gurin constituency that each of the local government councils have taken bank loans in excess of N50m.

Giving the directive after the adoption of the motion, the speaker of the House, Alhaji Abubakar Abdullahi, indicted the chairmen for their frivolous handling of public fund, stating that the freeze of account was in public interest to check further mis-management and looting of the fund at the local government especially now that

ADAMAWA

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the council tenure would expire by December 30th 2006. He therefore directed the accountant general of the state to ensure that only salaries and allowances of staff of the local government councils are released. Alhaji Abdullahi indicted the state accountant general for allowing the local government access to huge loans which were going to be a burden on the local governments councils, adding that earlier attempts to look into the finance books of the local government councils in the state were rebuffed by the Accountant Generals office. He said the

accounts would only be defreezed if each local government gives clear responses to the audit alarm from the local government auditor general office and the freeze order would last for an initial period of three months. It would be recalled that at least 10 local government chairmen and 2 commissioners of local governments and chieftaincy affairs have been arrested and released on bail by the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) for embezzling funds of their local government councils. Only last month, the state government was forced to reshuffle the state executive council following threats of arrest by the EFCC of some key officials' involvement in the local government councils fund disbursement from the federation allocation account.