

16 Killed, 10 Injured in Okene Accident

Sixteen persons were killed and 10 injured in a ghastly motor accident that occurred near Okene, Kogi State.

Kogi State Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Mr. Sunday Maku, who confirmed the accident and casualties, attributed the accident to reckless driving.

According to him, the accident that occurred about 13 kilometres after Okene involved two Toyota Hiace buses with registration numbers XT 911 FKJ and XJ 700 USL.

"The accident happened at about 13 kilometres away from Okene town along the Auchi - Okene Road. One of the vehicles was coming from Benin. It dangerously overtook another vehicle and in the process had a head-on collision with the one coming from Abuja, killing 16 people on the spot," Maku explained.

He added that: "30 people were involved in the accident, but 16 lost their lives, 10 sustained varying degrees of injuries while four were

From Shola Oyeyipo in Lokoja

unhurt."

The remains of the dead were deposited at the Okene General Hospital while the injured were also taken to the same hospital for urgent medical attention.

The sector commandant, who bemoaned the spate of accidents and deaths, said drivers plying the

Abuja road must refrain from dangerous overtaking, reckless driving and over-speeding.

"Most of the accident that occurred along the Auchi - Lokoja - Abuja highway could be avoided if the motorists will desist from reckless driving, especially as Christmas around the corner because the volume of cars plying the road will continue to increase," he said.

Farmers-Fulani Clash Claims 2 Lives, Injures 9

Two Fulani herdsmen were yesterday feared dead and nine others injured in two separate Farmers/Fulani clashes in Jibia and Kaifa Local Government Areas of Katsina State.

The *News Agency of Nigeria* (NAN) reported that the incident occurred at about 8.45a.m. in Maje village of Jibia local government area, when some Fulani herdsmen invaded the village of some farmers with their cattle.

The Fulani herdsmen, who were

said to have come from the neighbouring Niger Republic, had pushed scores of their animals into the farms thereby destroying farm produce.

Consequently, fighting ensued between the farmers and the herdsmen, which led to the death of one Fulani and killing and injuring of many cows.

However, the Fulani herdsmen moved to Kaifa area, NAN also gathered that the Fulani herdsmen invaded Dutsin Safe village at about 12.20 p.m. and destroyed farm produce and animal feeds of the villagers.

Angered with the action of the Fulani herdsmen, farmers of the village retaliated and as a result one Fulani was killed and five cows were injured.

Following the incident, the Fulani herdsmen fled with some of their cows while the nine persons who sustained injuries were rushed to Katsina General Hospital by the police for treatment.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relation Officer (PPRO), ASP Abubakar Ibrahim, confirmed the incident, saying five persons were arrested in connection with the two clashes:

South-west Economic Integration

region to "the Obafemi Awolowo golden era in the First Republic, when the old West was the clear pacesetter."

He said: "We are ready to embark on regional integration and development. And the Yoruba now have five governors in place to deliver on regional integration that will economically empower our people and deliver prosperity."

He told the crowd that the era of deceitful politics was over, adding that the ruling ACN in the region had ushered in a new era.

Extolling the culture and tradition of the Ijebu, Tinubu said the Ojude Oba festival was a fitting tes-

timony to religious tolerance among the Ijebu, noting though it had an Islamic bent, every Ijebu son and daughter treated the festival as a yearly home-coming.

He said the festival was a clear determination by the Ijebu to develop themselves by themselves, adding that the rest of the country ought to learn from that philosophy of self-determination.

He commended the qualities of the Awujale of Ijebuland, Oba Sikiru Kayode Adetona, whom he said had always displayed uncommon courage and exemplary leadership, even during military rule..