

Auto Crash Claims 10 in Kogi, Plateau States

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By Seriki Adinoyi in Jos **and Yekini Jimoh** in Lokoja

No fewer than 10 persons lost their lives in separate road crashes that took place in Jos, Plateau State and along Okene-Lokoja road in Kogi State yesterday. Of the number, six died in Jos while four died in Kogi.

The six persons were killed and several others injured when a lorry driving into Jos from Kaduna state lost control and rammed into stationary vehicles and tricycles with passengers on board, at Faringada roundabouts in Jos North local government of Plateau state.

The ill-fated lorry was conveying maize from Saminaka in Kaduna State to Onitsha through Jos when the break failed.

An eye witness said, "While the driver was struggling to control the vehicle, it rammed into three tricycles loaded with passengers and three other cars parked along the same road and crushed them. Six persons died on the spot while over ten others sustained severe injuries".

Another witness said it took over one hour before the bodies of those trapped under the lorry could be retrieved, leaving the entire area in pandemonium.

The state Police Public Relation Officer (PPRO), Mr. M. Tyopev confirmed that three people died in the accident, adding the driver of the lorry, Mr. Fatai Onaolapo had been arrested and presently helping the police to unravel the cause of the accident.

He said, "Preliminary investigations carried out revealed that the driver of the lorry, which was conveying maize to Onitsha from Saminaka in Kaduna state, was over speeding when it lost control."

He added that the injured persons are presently receiving treatment at Bingham University Teaching Hospital, Jos.

The accident in Kogi occurred at about 9.30 am yesterday when a Nissan passengers car with registration number LKJ 134 AA, had head-on Collision with another Toyota Sienna with Registration Number BDG 787 XT.

THISDAY gathered that among the four passengers that lost their lives were Rev. Elijah Sunday Onigbonsaye of First ECWA Church Lokoja, his friend, Pastor S.S Obadofin and two Brick Layers who had accompanied the Pastor to his village in Oke-Aki via Mopa to do some work in his house.

According to the sources, Rev. Onigbonsaye travelled to his village to arrange for the burial of his late mother coming up on April 20 with his friend, Pastor Obadofin and other two brick layers when the accident occurred yesterday.

An Eye witness who spoke with THISDAY at the scene of the accident said the driver of Nissan car lost control when one of the tyre burst on high speed.

The driver of Nissan Car was said to have rammed into a motorcyclist subsequently collided with a Sienna Toyota bus, adding that the occupants of Nissan Car died instantly, while the cyclist who was knocked down sustained injuries. Passengers in the Toyota Sienna were also wounded and rushed to undisclosed hospital.

As at time the journalists left the scene of the accident yesterday the driver and one passengers of Nissan car were trapped in wreckage of car and corpses of deceased were littered by the road side.

However, the Kogi State a Sector Commander of the FRSC, Mr. Olusegun Martins said that four persons lost their lives in the accident.

He said that the corpses and the injured persons were taken to the Federal Medical Centre, Lokoja.

He said that the FRSC would investigate the accident to ascertain its cause.