

# Accidents claim 7, injure others in Lagos, Delta, Ogun, A-Ibom

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**R**oads were literally blood-thirsty, yesterday, as a series of accidents in many parts of the country claimed seven lives and left many others with varying degrees of injury.

Lagos, Ogun, Delta and Akwa Ibom states were among those affected by the carnage on the highways.

In Lagos, tragedy occurred again at the notorious Otedola Bridge, along Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, in the early hours of yesterday, following fatal multiple accidents.

According to an eyewitness, Remilekun Abiola, the accident involving five vehicles, occurred about 8a.m., during the early morning downpour, at Otedola Bridge, outward Lagos to Berger claiming no fewer than two lives.

The accident involved a container-laden truck, a pick-up, a high capacity bus and several cars. Lagos State Emergency Management Agency, LASEMA and Lagos State Ambulance Service, LASAMBUS, which raced to the scene, confirmed the death of a man.

But there were different versions on the number of casualties. While eyewitnesses said many people died, LASEMA confirmed one dead so far.

The injured victims have also been taken to various hospitals for treatment.

Other rescue team at the scene, include men of the Rapid Response Squad, RRS, Lagos State Police Command; Lagos State Fire Service, and Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC, among others.

The accident led to chaotic traffic gridlock along the axis, as motorists were trapped in the resultant traffic.

## Truck kills one on Lagos-Abeokuta expressway

Ogun Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Corps, TRACE, said one person died, while two others sustained injuries in an accident that involved two trucks along

Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway.

Mrs Tope Oseni, Owode-Ijako Unit Commander of TRACE, said the accident happened about 8.15a.m.

Oseni explained that the accident occurred when a Benz truck with number plates AG 685 MRK, which was heading to Sango-Ota from Abeokuta broke the side mirror of a Scania truck with number plates LSR 74 XV.

She added: "The Scania truck tried to block the Benz truck driver for breaking his side mirror and in the process, rammed into a Suzuki and a Bajaj motorcycle with number plates QJ 108 FST and JGB 675 WU.

"The driver of the Suzuki died on the spot, while the two passengers of the Bajaj comprising of father and son sustained injuries."

The Unit Commander said the corpse has been deposited at the Ifo General Hospital, while the survivors were receiving medical attention.

## Truck crushes 3, injure others in A-Ibom

Tragedy also struck in the early hours of yesterday in Akwa Ibom State, when a truck crashed and killed three persons—a man and two women—leaving three others seriously injured.

The tragic incident, which occurred along Urua Ekpa Junction, Itu Local Government Area at about 8a.m., when the driver of the truck with a number plates, Rivers BNY 137 XA, skidded off the road while trying to avoid a tricycle operator crossing the road.

Eyewitnesses said the truck driver, who was heading towards Calabar, Cross River State, lost control and ran into nearby SG Filling Station, killed three persons, injured three others and destroyed three tricycles.

However, Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC, put the deaths at two, comprising a man and woman, with two persons injured.

The Sector Commander of FRSC in Akwa Ibom State, Mr. Sunday Oghenekaro, blamed the crash on the recklessness of the tricycle rider and called for serious

orientation for tricycle operators.

His words: "From the information I have received from my field officer, two people including a man and a woman, died and two were injured.

"The incident happened due to recklessness of the Keke rider, who was trying to cross the road. The truck was trying to avoid him before it finally crashed."

## Tanker kills okada passenger in Delta

In Delta State, a tanker driver escaped being lynched by a mob at the New Road area of the Sapele, after a man boarding an okada was crushed to death by the tanker.

The incident occurred at about 5.40a.m., when the tanker and the okada the man boarded crashed, leaving the man's body mangled.

Eyewitnesses said the tanker had gone to supply fuel to a filling station in the vicinity and was manoeuvring its way to New Road, probably heading out of town, while the man on a commercial motorcycle was heading to Owumi Road.

According to the eyewitness, "I was standing at the other side of the road when the okada passed me, while the tanker was trying to manoeuvre its way from New Road to Owumi Road.

"The next thing we heard was someone screaming and all I saw was a man under the truck's rear tyre. Fortunately, the okada man escaped unhurt," added the eyewitness, who simply identified herself as Angela.

The incident almost sparked violence in the area, as co-riders and sympathisers, who dashed to the scene, accused the truck driver of recklessness.

A man was said to have put a call to the Sapele Area Command and New Sapele Divisional Police Officer, DPO, Abubakar Akande, who in turn directed a team of combined Policemen from the Area Command and Sapele Police Station to put the situation under control.