

## 22 die in Kogi auto crash

By Boluwaji Obahopo

**LOKOJA**—Twenty two persons, yesterday, lost their lives in an auto accident involving a truck, a bus and a car in Apata, Lokoja council area of Kogi State.

An eyewitness said all the occupants of the bus died on the spot.

Confirming the accident, the state commandant of the Federal Road Safety Commission, FRSC, said the accident occurred around 12:50pm, Wednesday, involving three vehicles.

He listed the vehicles to include one DAF truck, with number plate: GME44ZU, a Honda Accord car with number plate: GWAT73KH and a Hiace Bus with number plate: KTV 378 XF.

He said 26 persons were involved, "nine male adults, 13 female adults, three male children and one female child."

He said three persons, two male and a female adults, suffered bruises, lacerations and fractures.

"22 persons died in the accidents and their corpses have been deposited at the Federal Medical Centre morgue, while the injured were also taken to the hospital."

He placed the cause of the accident to overspending and tyre burst.

However, the state government has expressed sympathy over the demise of 14 passengers,

The state Commissioner for Information and Communication, Mr. Kingsley Fanwo, in a statement said: "Preliminary reports showed that the accident involved a bus and a truck conveying cement from Obajana.

"Men of the Federal Road Safety Commission have been alerted and bodies of the deceased have been evacuated from the scene of the accident.

"It is indeed, a sad occurrence and a shame that we lost such promising souls in such a pathetic circumstance.

"As a government, we will strengthen our road safety measures to ensure that avoidable loss of lives are averted.

"We also call on the FRSC to intensify its surveillance along the roads and ensure that road users obey traffic laws as well as ensure that only road worthy vehicles ply our roads. Every life is precious."