

20 die in Lagos-Ibadan, Mokwa auto crashes

....As FRSC warns against dangerous driving

By Fortune Eromosele

NO fewer than 20 persons have been confirmed dead and six others injured, in a fatal crash on Lagos-Ibadan expressway, and in Mokwa, Niger State.

The Assistant Corps Marshal and Corps Public Education Officer, Bisi Kazeem, in a statement, yesterday, in Abuja, on behalf of the FRSC Acting Corps Marshal, Mr. Dauda Biu, attributed the crash that occurred at 06.30am, along the Ibadan-Lagos route, a few minutes before Guru Maharaji Ji area, Oyo State, to wanton violation of speed limit and indulgence in dangerous driving.

He said that the Mokwa fatal crash occurred at 3.30 a.m while a lone crash also occurred in Otukpo at about 11.35 a.m. on Tuesday.

"According to a preliminary investigation conducted into the fatal crashes, the Ibadan avoidable accident is a lone crash

that involved a Toyota bus with number plates TRK 135 ZY.

"While the Mokwa crash involved a trailer transiting from Lagos which had a head-on collision with a bus and the Otukpo lone crash involving a bus registered as NAK 77 XA, occurred as a result of a fallen tree that blocked the highway.

"18 people, all male adults, are involved in the Ibadan crash, out of which 10 were killed, six injured and the rest rescued without injuries," he said.

Biu added that 10 victims were killed in the Mokwa crash, nine of which were confirmed dead on the spot and the remaining one died in the hospital.

He however said that zero fatality was recorded in the Otukpo lone crash, but the injured victims were taken to St. Daniels Hospital Otukpo for urgent treatment.

According to him, six victims with degrees of injuries during the rescue operations of the Ibadan crash were given adequate first aid

by the corps' medical rescue team before moving them to Ibadan Central Hospital for proper medical attention.

He added that the remains of the dead victims had been deposited in Adeoyo General Hospital Morgue in Ibadan.

He noted that the main cause of the crash according to the report was dangerous driving, road obstruction and excessive speed which led to the loss of control.

He assured the motoring public, particularly law-abiding ones, that the corps had already enhanced its visibility and intensified patrol operations to guarantee safety on highways.

The FRSC boss directed the immediate deployment of a special squad to the affected part of the Otukpo-Makurdi highway to ensure the speedy removal of the fallen tree and a traffic control team to ensure the free flow of traffic.

"The deployed squad has already commenced the cutting of the tree for immediate evacuation.

"The motoring public is admonished to exercise patience, and maintain the lowest possible speed while plying the route," he said.

Biu further advised motorists to allow the spirit of love that came with the season to reflect in the manner they drove.

Bandits kidnap 16 in Kaduna community