

ROAD TRAFFIC CRASH ALONG LEKKI-EPE EXPRESSWAY, WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2011

Just as we were visiting Channels Television, TV Continental and Lagos Television to showcase our programs for the United Nation's Decade of Action for road safety which was launched all over the world on Wednesday, May 11, 2011, news reached us about a multiple road crash involving school children same day.

One of our major programs for the decade of action is "Child Passenger Safety"

The crash occurred at Eko Akete on Olonkonla-Ibeju route at about 6.56 am.

From our investigation, we discovered that the crash was solely covered by the Lekki Unit of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) hence we approached them for more details, as follows:

Number of Vehicles Involved

5 vehicles (including a Cornerstone Stone Bright School Bus) were involved:

Nissan Jeep	DM 598 AAA
Toyota Jeep	DZ 510 GGE
Astra Cadet Car	FP 875 LSR
Baleno Saloon Car	JJ 962 EKY and
Toyota Hiace School Bus	BU 189 FKJ

According to the account, the School Bus and the Toyota Jeep were travelling in the same direction and in the course of trying to overtake the School Bus conveying 4 pupils of Cornerstone Bright School, sangotedo, the Jeep ran into the Bus. The impact caused the 2 vehicles to skid off onto the opposite lane and crashed into 3 other on-coming vehicles.

Casualties

A total of 19 persons (including the 4 pupils) were involved. 3 of the pupils (2 females and 1 male between the ages of 6 and 12) were confirmed dead while the others sustained injuries and were immediately taken to Safeway Hospital, Sangotedo and General Hospital, Ibeju- Lekki. The 3 corpses , including those of Tobi and Phillip Adebisi of same parents, were deposited at the Epe General Hospital.

Probable Cause of the Crash

The most likely causes of the crash are:

- Over-Speeding
- Wrongful Over-Taking

Likely Intervention

The rate of road traffic crash on the Lekki - Epe Expressway has been on the increase in recent time. This is due to the increase in the number of residents in the area and transporters now use the route as a link to the Sagamu - Ore road. However we are proposing to increase our road safety campaign train on the corridor.

In the immediate, we need to conduct at least 2 diets of our School Bus Training especially for schools and residents of the Lekki - Epe expressway.

Secondly, we need to roll out a major "Child Passenger Safety Campaign" to target also schools and residents of the area. We are already engaging all Lagos based road safety NGOs and other stakeholders for action on the above.

We had concluded plans for a group condolence visit to be led by the FRSC, but the school has since been shut down temporarily to avoid reprisal attack.

More details of the May 11 crash and the intervention plans will reach you very shortly.