I take responsibility for Abuja-Kaduna train derailment — NRC MD

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The Managing Director of the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC), Kayode Opeifa, has taken full responsibility for the Abuja-Kaduna train derailment that occurred on Tuesday.  
  
Opeifa, who spoke on Channels Television’s The Morning Brief on Wednesday, assured Nigerians that the ongoing investigation into the incident would be transparent.  
  
“Let me say, beyond apologising to Nigeria, I want to say as the managing director and chief executive, I take full responsibility. And in the case of safety, there is no indifference.  
  
“Once it happens, the chief executive must take responsibility. In this case, I am taking responsibility,” Opeifa said.  
  
The NRC boss further stressed that while the derailment should not have happened, measures were being put in place to prevent a recurrence.  
  
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“I want to assure Nigerians that an incident like this is not expected, is not prayed for, should not be happening, but where it does, it is to bring out the best in us.  
  
“And I assure Nigerians that just as we are doing currently on the Warri-Itakpe, which he (the analyst) also mentioned, we shut down the Warri-Itakpe (route) three weeks ago.  
  
“I ordered the shutdown for safety reasons, and if you see the level of work the men have been doing on the track, cutting it off and replacing it is to make sure things like this don’t happen,” he added.  
  
The derailment occurred on Tuesday along the Kaduna corridor shortly after the train departed Abuja at about 11 a.m. en route to Kaduna.  
  
Passengers described the scene as chaotic, with many scrambling to safety.