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Yobe road tragedy: Five family members killed, community thrown into mourning



By Duku Joel, Maiduguri

A wave of grief has swept across **Yobe State** following a tragic road accident that claimed the lives of five members of the same family along the Damaturu–Maiduguri highway late on Wednesday, March 25, 2026.

The fatal crash, which occurred near the Kukareta community, about 20 kilometres from Damaturu, involved a Sharon bus and a Coca-Cola truck. The devastating incident has left not only the immediate family shattered but also plunged residents of Potiskum Local Government Area into deep mourning.

Confirming the incident, the Yobe State Police Public Relations Officer, SP Dungus Abdulkarim, said preliminary investigations revealed that the accident was caused by high speed and a dangerous overtaking attempt by the Sharon bus driver, which led to a collision with the truck.

“Yes, the accident happened on Wednesday along the Damaturu-Maiduguri Road near Kukareta. Preliminary investigations revealed the crash occurred as a result of high speed and uncalculated overtaking by the Sharon bus, which hit the Coca-Cola truck,” he said.

The victims, all members of the Dahiru Zayi family, were identified as Hajjagana Dahiru Zayi, Ibrahim Dahiru Zayi, Muhammad Dahiru Zayi, Hauwa Dahiru Zayi, and another relative. Three

other family members who sustained varying degrees of injuries are currently receiving treatment at the General Hospital in Damaturu.

For the bereaved family, the loss is both sudden and overwhelming. A relative, Dahiru Musa Talba, who confirmed the tragedy in an emotional Facebook post, captured the depth of the pain.

“Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji’un. My mom has died,” he wrote, in a brief but heartbreaking message that has since drawn an outpouring of condolences.

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Residents in the area described the incident as deeply distressing, noting that the highway—often busy with heavy vehicular movement—has become increasingly dangerous due to reckless driving. Many have called for greater caution among motorists to prevent further tragedies.

The Yobe State Governor, Mai Mala Buni, has also expressed profound sorrow over the incident, describing it as a heartbreaking loss not only to the family but to the entire state.

In a statement issued by his Director General of Press and Media Affairs, Mamman Mohammed, the governor said he received the news with shock and sadness.

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“The pain of losing five members of a family in a single road accident is beyond imagination. This is a sad, very unfortunate, and trying moment for the family and the entire state,” the statement read in part.

While acknowledging the depth of the tragedy, Governor Buni urged the family to find solace in faith, noting that “as believers, we accept that this is their appointed time.”

He prayed for the forgiveness of the deceased and for Allah to grant them eternal rest in Jannatul Firdaus, while also asking God to give the bereaved family the strength to bear what he described as a huge and irreparable loss.

As condolences continue to pour in, the tragedy stands as a grim reminder of the fragility of life and the devastating consequences of reckless driving, leaving behind a grieving family, a mourning community, and a state united in sorrow.

