

Tragedy

5 Nigerian players die in auto crash

SELYA YARNAP, BAUCHI

TRAGEDY has hit Nigerian football as five players of Bauchi Wunti FC, an amateur league club, died in a ghastly motor accident.

Eleven others are now lying critically ill at a specialist hospital in Bauchi. The accident occurred about fifteen kilometre away from Bauchi as their way to honour a league match in Kano against Bank of the North (BON) FC.

According to the team manager, Idris Abdullahi, the bus ran into a bridge following a burst tyre.

Abdullahi who spoke amidst sobs added that the team was on their way to Kano for the match billed for 2pm Monday.

"I think Allah has destined that the match will not hold following this unfortunate accident which has claimed the lives of our players. We only pray that Allah will console us and the immediate families of the deceased players."

Speaking also, State Director of Sports of Bauchi, Haruna Bako,

described the accident as very unfortunate as it happened at a very critical time when the services of the players were most needed by the club in its bid to play in the professional cadre of Nigeria League come next football season. He described it as a big loss to the country's football.

"We have lost a complete team and it will take the grace of God for us to overcome the shock."

Family members of the deceased players, friends and thousands of sympathizers trooped to the Specialist Hospital to see the bodies of the dead players and those injured.

The victims are Adamu Beбето, Manga Mohammed, Ubale Maidala, Murtala Zakari and Jibrin Abdullahi.

It is recalled that three seasons ago, similar accident occurred involving another Bauchi team, Zabgai Inter FC when eight players and one official died on their way back to Bauchi after honouring a league match against Kogi Teachers of Lokoja.