

# Auto crash: 11 killed in Gombe

WILLIAMS ATTAH, *Gombe*

A truck with passengers from a village market last Saturday night crashed and instantly killed 11 people, injuring 22 others on Gombe-Biu road.

One of the victims, Ifeanyi Odo, a seller of bicycle spare parts who escaped with a fractured leg, told reporters on his hospital bed that they were coming back from Kwaya Kusar market in Borno State to Gombe when the accident occurred.

He said there were about 60 people in the truck with all their goods when the driver of the vehicle lost control.

Odo who appeared weak and worried over lack of attention to his leg several hours after the accident, said there were many passengers in the vehicle and that each of them had his goods in the same truck.

Confirming the accident, the State Sector Commander

of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Mr. Francis Udoma, said the vehicle involved was a Mercedes Benz MAN Diesel noting that the crash occurred 86 kilometres from Gombe metropolis.

Mr. Udoma said there were 57 people on board the vehicle and that except for the dead and those receiving medical attention, the others sustained minor injuries and had been treated and discharged.

He appealed to motorists and passengers to ensure that vehicles are driven according to traffic regulations and ensure that vehicles were not overloaded, adding that most accidents occur as a result of reckless driving.

Our correspondent reports that such ghastly accidents involving traders who travel to village markets almost on a daily basis is not new on the road as some months ago, a similar accident occurred where several lives were lost.