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**Countryman**

## Family of 13, 32 others die in auto mishap

LUKKEY ABAWURU, *with agency reports*

Tragedy struck in Lagos, Kwara and Katsina states on Easter Sunday and on Monday as 13 family members died in Katsina while eight women were seriously injured in a Lagos auto crash. The accident in Katsina occurred at Dungun-Ma'azu village along Funtua-Dandume road, while the Lagos incident occurred at the Third Mainland Bridge.

The Kwara auto crash involving two commuter buses claimed altogether 24 lives. Ten other passengers were injured in the mishap.

*Daily Champion* gathered that the victims in Katsina State were returning home after attending a marriage in Minna, Niger State, while their counterparts in Lagos were allegedly going to the island for undisclosed reasons.

Eye-witnesses said both accidents were caused by burst tyres. The incident in Lagos occurred when the rear tyre of the Danfo bus conveying the passengers burst, causing the bus to somersault at the Oworonshoki end of the Third Mainland Bridge.

However, another witness said the vehicle in Katsina State which was conveying the victims also had a burst tyre and the driver lost control and crashed, resulting in the death of the 13 occupants, who included women and children. Only the driver and his conductor reportedly survived.

Speaking to newsmen, Malam Abdulbasir Kafinta, who lost his wife and daughter, described the incident as an act of Allah.

However, Public Relations Officer of the Federal Road Safety Commission Lagos sector command, Mr. Jonas Agwu, said the victims were receiving treatment at a Lagos hospital. He said the accident occurred at about 3pm.



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