

## Auto accident claims five on election duty

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FOUR people lost their lives in an auto crash on Gombe-Dukku road yesterday while monitoring the Gombe North Senatorial bye-election, while several others who sustained serious injuries are receiving treatment at the Federal Medical Centre, Gombe.

The driver of a Vectra saloon commercial vehicle also lost his life. He was coming from Kano when he had a head-on collision with the Honda car carrying the election observers, comprising Hajiya Binta Fati

Ali from Borno state and Rose Samuel from Abia state, while an administrative officer, Adamu Malala who was their guide and driver, Umar Adamu also lost their lives.

According to the Chief of Staff, Government House, Gombe Alhaji Babayo Gidado who represented the State Governor Alhaji Mohammed Danjuma Goje, the state government has offered to foot the medical bills of those receiving treatment and that of the burial of Rose Samuel, while the others were buried according to Islamic rites.

Gidado stated further that the observers had finished

their work in Dukku and were driving to a nearby village when the accident occurred.

He told journalists that the state governor expressed government's sadness over the sad incidence and prayed for the repose of the souls of the departed.

He said the victims would have told the world about the conduct of the Gombe bye-election when the accident cut their lives short, adding that "God knows why this happened and He makes no mistake in His actions".

Meanwhile, the bye-election witnessed a large turn-out which was attributed

to the declaration by President Goodluck Jonathan that elections in Nigeria would be conducted free, fair and credible. That every vote must count.

The election which was conducted peacefully was also described by many as the best election ever conducted in the state. Voters queued up orderly and cast their votes unmolested and under the watchful eyes of security agents.

Results were yet to be released as at the time of filing this report.

performance, urged the people