

# Seven die in Suleja accident

**A** head on collision that killed seven people could have been caused by tax collectors manning a roadblock in Niger state on Wednesday night.

Witnesses told *Daily Trust* two busses crashed into each other after one tried to avoid spikes on the road set up by tax officials.

The crash occurred at Maje area of Suleja.

The busses were travelling in opposite directions on the Suleja- Minna road when they had a head-on collision few metres from the Maje roundabout, the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), said.

Six other passengers in the bus were said to have been seriously injured and were rushed to the Suleja General Hospital where the dead were also deposited.

Witnesses said the Suleja local government revenue collectors had been blocking the road with sticks and nails in a bid to stop vehicles, the FRSC said.

One of the buses was

**From Aideloje Ojo, Minna**

trying to avoid the stick when it collided with the other bus on the opposite direction.

The Niger state Sector Commander of the FRSC, Alhaji Ambo Indabawa, confirmed the accident in an interview with our correspondent in Minna on Thursday.

He said: "this development has made it imperative for government to devise a better way of revenue collection. The idea of putting a long stick with nails as obstruction on the road in the process of tax collection by local government officials is to say the least, barbaric".

The 13 persons affected by the accident, which occurred at about 8pm in the night, are two women and 11 men.

Alhaji Indabawa said the men of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), evacuated three of the deceased to the mortuary on the night of the incident while the men of the FRSC evacuated four early in the morning of the next day.