

Family of six perish in auto crash

What was to be a merry Sallah and New Year celebration for Abdul-Yakeeni Sulaiman and his family during the yuletide ended up a tragedy for the entire family. Six members of his family were among the seven persons who were killed in a ghastly motor accident at Kwanak Dan Gora town along Kano-Zaria road on Sallah eve.

Pyramid Trust gathered that the incident occurred on Friday at about 7:00pm when two vehicles, a Toyota pick-up with plate numbers XB 174 KJM and Mazda sedan with plate number AL 32 DAL, had a head-on collision.

An eye witness, Mallam Haladu Musa told our correspondent that the driver of the Mazda was on high speed from Kano axis when one of his back tyres busted as a result of which he subsequently lost control and ran into the other vehicle which was heading towards Kano on the opposite direction after he crashed through the barriers to the other side of the road.

Mallam Musa added, "We were at the motor park when suddenly we heard the sound of two vehicles collide. When we came to the scene the victims were in a pool of their own blood. We removed six corpses including that of the driver from the Mazda wagon and later one additional person from the same vehicle was discovered to be dead"

He further stated that although the travellers in the Toyota pick-up died on the spot but most of the passengers they removed from it sustained serious injuries including fractures, noting that the driver sustained fracture on his laps.

Narrating his ordeal to our correspondent, the father of the six victims, Alhaji Abdul-Yakeeni Sulaiman who came to the scene of the accident, said six of his children (the victims) were on their way to Kaduna state where they were expected to spend the night before proceeding to Ilorin, the capital of Kwara

From Yusha'u Adamu
Ibrahim, Kano

state for the Sallah and New Year celebrations with the rest of the family.

"I lost Jami'u, Kafayatu, Bushratu, Yusuf, Ariyo and Kudratu my brother's wife to the accident. They are all dead and I don't even know what to do now. I could not image it when I was first informed about the incident and I am now in total confusion" Abdul-Yakeeni narrated in tears.

He added that "I have left every thing in the hands of God since He is the giver and the taker of life. I know the Almighty God is fully aware of the situation and the only thing that is left for me to do is to prepare for their burial as well as to continue praying for their gentle souls to rest in perfect peace"

Our Correspondent who visited the scene of the accident gathered that six of the victims including an infant whose mother survived the accident died instantly while the other who sustained



Personal effects of the victims litter the scene of the accident

head injury and died later when he was about to be

taken to Hospital.

Investigations at the scene revealed that some of the victims who sustained serious injuries including fractures were taken to the hospital through the assistance of police officials.

Although the survivors were taken to the hospital but up till the time our reporter left the scene of the accident (10am) the corpses of the victims were still at the scene of the accident despite the fact that the police had been informed since the time of the incident the previous day.

The villagers were even contemplating giving the victims a befitting burial in the village because of the neglect of the victims who were left in the open by the roadside. One of the villagers also expressed dismay at the attitude of Nigerians to their fellow men in times of need, saying,

"We stopped over 40 cars between last night and this morning to help carry the dead bodies to a nearby hospital but they refused to stop.

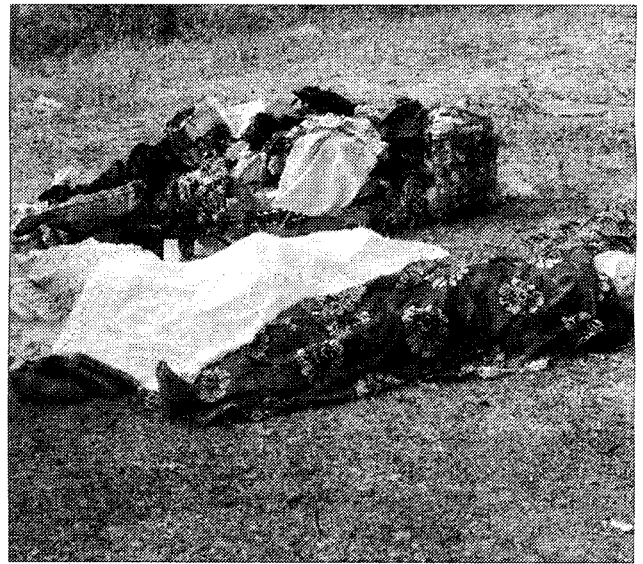
Some will slow down but as soon as they see the dead



A Sallah Holiday than ended in a tragedy for a family of six on their way to Ilorin



12 months old baby that died along with her mother in the crash



Bodies of victims left unattended by the roadside for over 12 hours



The driver of one of the vehicle involved in the accident

bodies withal the blood on them, they will just accelerate and continue on their journey.

We should remember that every soul will taste this calamity of death, and how will you feel if it were your son, your wife, your sister or even yourself?" he queried

One of the sympathizers, Mallam Ibrahim Shehu who spoke to Pyramid Trust said it is unfortunate that Nigeria has still not attained the level

of development for us to have a competent rescue system to handle accidents on our high ways.

Mallam Shehu lamented "how can such a fatal accident happen close to the city of Kano but with no rescue team that can handle the situation at the appropriate time, I am sure if there was a competent team of experts at the scene when the incident happened more people may be rescued".



The bodies of six members of one family that perished in the accident



One of the few survivors of the crash