

NEWS

Accident claims groom, six others

A head-on collision of two vehicles which occurred at Murfa Kalan Village, a few kilometers to Damaturu in Yobe State has claimed the lives of a groom and six others on their way to a wedding venue at Ngelzarma, about 40 kilometers from the state capital.

Witnesses said the accident occurred Friday when a Volkswagen Golf car with Abuja registration number AL490KWL conveying the groom and the six other people had a burst tyre and ran into a Hilux truck belonging to the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) with registration number FG 38 K20 coming from the opposite direction.

From Hamza Idris,
Damaturu

"The late driver of the golf car was probably excited and was over - speeding to get to the wedding venue", Mallam Lawal, a witness said.

Commander Hajara Adamu Bazza of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) in Yobe State who confirmed the accident said six people died on the spot while the seventh, a lady, died a few hours later at the Sani Abacha Specialist Hospital Damaturu.

"Five among the deceased including the groom were from the same family while the sixth was their family friend. All of them were

from Nayinawa area of Damaturu metropolis", Bazza who is the head of operations at the Yobe office of the FRSC said.

"They chattered the Golf car which was overloaded with people and luggages. Instead of carrying five people, there were seven on board, three in the front. It was very unfortunate", the road safety commander lamented.

She attributed the accident to over speeding, overloading, recklessness and poor road condition. "The place where the accident occurred is dotted by terrible bumps which were caused by weather effects on the tarred road. The place is also slippery and from what we saw, the driver

of the Golf wanted to dodge the bad portion and therefore moved to the other lane", Bazza said.

Commander Bazza called on drivers to change their "poor attitude to driving" and called on passengers to be "highly selective in choosing which vehicle to board".

Daily Trust reports that accidents have become a recurring decimal along the Damaturu-Potiskum road, claiming dozens of lives and properties worth millions of naira. The dualization of the road is currently going on even though observers have been berating the contractors for their snail speed in handling of the project.