

# Driver crashes into 'kosai' joint, kills 7 persons

**From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri**

**S**even persons were killed in Maiduguri Saturday night when a car swerved off the road and ran into a group of people waiting to buy bean cake (akara).

Among those killed were a five-year old boy and the 60-year old woman baking the bean cake. The incident occurred at Kumshe ward, Maiduguri, at about 11.50 pm

Witnesses told *Daily Trust* the man, who seemed drunk, was driving at high speed in a Mercedes 200 when he crashed into the group of people who clustered around the old lady waiting to buy the bean cake.

The man who is yet to be identified was said to have killed a commercial motor cyclist

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driving along Abbaganaram road, from custom area before he ran over Maman Kwala, the bean cake seller and her customers and ending up into a mosque. But no one was in the mosque at the time.

Four persons including the woman died on the spot while the others died on the way to the hospital. A witness said: "The man was drunk, because when he moved out of his car with injury on the head, he was staggering, you could smell the oozing of alcohol from his body.

He was driving recklessly from Abbaganaram where he hit one 'achaba' man and the man died, people were running away from the sides of the road while others followed him on motor cycle and suddenly he crashed into Maman Kwala, brushed her along with her frying pan and also crashed some five persons sitting on her bench and waiting to buy kosai."

Another witness said, "the man left the scene soon

after the accident but he returned few minutes with police men to carry his mobile hand set from the car, he picked it and he left inside the police car, a 306 Peugeot saloon car. It looked as if the man was arrested by the police".

Husband to the deceased bean cake seller, a retired police inspector, Mr Wcliffe Bobula, told *Daily Trust* at his residence that he received news about his

wife's death from his daughter. He said he was confused when the news came to him, he ran to the scene but met people including his wife dead.

He also said his daughter who normally stayed with her mother at the point of selling 'kosai' was lucky to be alive because she was sent by her late mother to buy polythene bags when the accident happened.

Bobula however said he

was not aware the driver was arrested because he was busy attending to the wife's corpse. Some sympathizers around the bereaved man however told our correspondent that the driver has been arrested by the police and was being detained at the police state's headquarters.

*Daily Trust* correspondent tried to find out from the police if the driver was in custody, but the Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Isa Azare, didn't respond to several mobile phone

calls and text messages.

Our correspondent visited the scene of the accident reports that some youths have seen a Mercedes car on fire test.

Muslims among the persons have been yesterday while two of some Christians, in that of maman kwala, deposited at the mortuary of the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital.

## Nigeria owes N424bn multilateral debts - DM

Nigeria owes the multilateral and non-Paris club bilateral creditors debts of about N424 billion (3.654 billion U.S dollars) as at Dec. 31, 2007. A report yesterday by Debt Management Office (DMO) entitled "DMO's Strategic Plan for Public Debt Management: Issues and Challenges", said the money was owed by both the Federal and State governments.

The report made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) said the states owed the multilateral

ment and social services.

"Multilateral debts are soft loans with 40 years repayment period, 10 years grace period and very low interest rates," the report explained.

It said the credits obtained from the multilateral organisations were useful for funding health, water and education projects.

The Federal Government had instituted a policy of taking only concessionary loans from multilateral organisations, which usually have less than 3 per cent interest rate.

and N1.3 trillion (12 billion U.S dollars paid off.

"The Federal Government and the states have completely exited the Paris Club debt," the report said.

The DMO report said there was absence of a comprehensive sub-national debt strategy that takes into account Nigeria's peculiar fiscal federalism.

"There is absence of effective co-ordination and regulation of borrowing by sub-national entities, which has resulted in excessive fiscal expansion, thereby creating problems for macro-economic stability.

poor and unreliable data on sub-national debts created an inadequate coordination of debt issues with stakeholders at the level.

It also said the DMO embarked on data collection of both formal and informal debts in states. To create a debt management policy, the DMO and the states have agreed on a temporary Debt Management Instruments (DMDI) in the states.

The report said the DMO had been selected to establish the states to establish DMDI. The DMO

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