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Accident fire claims 10 passengers in Zaria

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A ghastly motor accident Thursday evening claimed not less than ten lives as two buses travelling at opposite direction on the Zaria/Jos road had a head-on collision.

The accident which occurred at Wanka, a village on the outskirts of Zaria but located in Soba local government area of Kaduna State, occurred when one of the speeding-buses' driver attempted to avoid a deep pothole and collided with another bus coming from the Zaria lane of the road..

An eyewitness, Malam Shehu Danlami, explained thus; "I was selling sugarcane by the side of the road, suddenly, I heard a heavy sound and immediately afterward I noticed that the sound was as a result of collision between a bus that was fully loaded with sheep and another overloaded with passengers. Immediately after the head-on collision, the two vehicles went up in flame. I saw more than 10 corpses mostly burnt beyond recognition.

Another account said one of the two buses took off from Tudun Saibu market, a weekly local market in Soba local government area, with load of sheep and three people while the other bus took off with Pambeguwa-bound passengers from the Sabon Gari, Zaria Bus Stop Motor Park.

At the scene of the accident Thursday night, Weekly Trust learnt that both the corpses and survivors had already been evacuated by sympathizers. A mass burial for the victims has taken place .also

A community leader and former chairman of Soba district development area, Alhaji Adamu Muhammad, told Weekly Trust that the accident was a pathetic one. He urged motorists to desist from reckless overtaking.

The Kaduna State Commissioner of Police, Tambari Yabo Muhammad, told Weekly Trust that he has not received the report of the accident but would confirm from the Soba local government Divisional Police Officer (DPO).

However, an official of the NURITW Sabon Gari, Zaria Bus Stop Motor Park chapter, Malam Sha'aibu Maikudi, told Weekly Trust that no fewer than 10 persons and unknown number of sheep died in the accident.

He said "we are trying to see if we can reach the relatives of the victims. This is why we want people who know that their relatives travelled from Zaria to Pambeguwa to come to us for more information. Seven people died on the spot while others died at the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (ABUTH), Shika, Zaria," Maikudi said.

Chairman of Soba local government area, Alhaji Kawu Ibrahim Yakasai and the district head of Yakasai, Alhaji Haruna Uban Dawakin Zazzau described the accident as a disaster. They therefore called on the federal government, Kaduna and Plateau state governments to dualise the Zaria/Jos road as that would reduce accident rate on the bad road.

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