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12 Jigawa-bound traders die in Makurdi-Lafia road crash

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News

WRITTEN BY -

TUESDAY, 27 APRIL 2010 01:24

Twelve traders including a driver who left Makurdi in Benue State in a Jigawa State-bound mini bus died in an accident when the bus had a head-on collision with a lorry along the Makurdi-Lafia road yesterday. Only one passenger, a teenager, survived the accident.

The bus attempted to overtake another vehicle at a sharp bend in Yelwata in Guma Local Government Area of Benue State when it met the speeding lorry at about 9:30am as the rain drizzled. The mini bus belongs to the Nigerian Legion in Jigawa State.

Registration number of the bus could not be ascertained as the vehicle was lying in shreds, but the lorry carried the registration number SA 354 CRC (Katsina).

The lorry dragged the bus backwards for over 20 metres, and pushed it into drainage. The bodies of the casualties were mutilated in the process, with some losing parts of their bodies.

The driver of the lorry and all passengers on board were unscathed. The teenager who survived in the mini bus also came out unscathed but could not speak due to shock.

The traders took off from the Wadata market in Makurdi where they made bulk purchases of tomatoes and pepper, Daily Trust learnt.

When Daily Trust visited the scene at about 10am yesterday, Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) officials from Nasarawa State led by Mr. S. Dauda had just arrived and joined the horde of concerned youths to retrieve the trapped bodies from the mangled bus which was under the lorry.

Witnesses at the scene including villagers and passengers of the lorry said the driver of the mini bus tried to overtake at a sharp bend. A farmer, Hyacinth Kagher, said the lorry dragged the bus backward for long before both vehicles ended up in the drainage.

FRSC officials from Benue State could not make it to the accident scene which falls under their area of jurisdiction because their vehicle broke down, Daily Trust learnt. But those of the Nasarawa State sector command, who brought an ambulance, conveyed the bodies to the mortuary at the Federal Medical Centre (FMC) in Makurdi.

Sector commander of the FRSC in Nasarawa State, Mrs. Susan Ajenge, confirmed the accident and deaths in a telephone chat with Daily Trust. She also confirmed that the accident scene falls under Benue jurisdiction.

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