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YOU ARE HERE: [NEWS](#) > [NEWS](#) > [AUTO CRASH CLAIMS 39, INJURES 64 IN NIGER](#)

Auto crash claims 39, injures 64 in Niger

Saturday, 26 February 2011 04:36

Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna



Governor Babangida Aliyu

A lone auto crash along Minna-Suleja road in Niger State, involving an articulated truck, has claimed the lives of 39 people with over 50 others sustaining various degrees of injury. Eyewitness accounts have it that the tragedy which occurred on Thursday due to brake failure, forced the driver to skid off the road into a nearby bush, killing people.

It was gathered that the driver of the vehicle, who is yet to be identified but is suspected to be among the dead, directed his conductor to drop from the vehicle and put a wedge in between the moving wheels to stop it from rolling down the slope. But while he was shouting that the brakes had failed, the vehicle swerved into the bush, toppling over.

The vehicle, according to reports, had over 100 passengers and was said to have taken off from Katsina State heading for Suleja. The Niger State Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Tuma Dalok, confirmed the incident.

The Emir of Suleja had earlier ordered that the remains of the dead be buried immediately to avoid a possible pandemic adding that the number was high and hospital management may not be able to cope with preserving them.

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