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Bus rams into Shema's car - ADC, 4 others killed

Wednesday, 16 March 2011 00:00

Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina



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The wrecked official car of Governor Ibrahim Shema at Zakaliya village in Katsina State, yesterday.

A commercial bus collided with Governor Ibrahim Shema's official car at Zakaliya village in Dutsi Local Government Area of Katsina State yesterday, resulting in the death of five persons including the governor's Aide-Camp [ADC], Assistant Superintendent of Police Aminu Ibrahim. Another bus also lost control and fell into a ditch. The governor and two other occupants of his vehicle, his driver and police orderly, escaped with minor bruises while ten other persons were injured in the multiple accident. There were a total of twenty six people in the three vehicles. The accident which involved the vehicle of the state governor and two other commercial vehicles occurred on the Katsina to Daura highway while Shema was on his way to Daura to receive

President Goodluck Jonathan, who was billed to land in the area to visit the emir of Daura as part of his presidential campaign tour.

Sector commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) in the state Mallam Habu Dauda, who confirmed the incident, said the accident was caused by a commercial bus with registration number XA 668 ZAR which refused to move over even when it was flagged down to stop for the governor's convoy.

He said the bus driver became terrified, lost control and hit the governor's official vehicle, while another driver who trailed the governor's convoy also lost control of his vehicle and ran into a ditch, leading to the death of five persons while ten others sustained various degrees of injuries.

At the Federal Medical Centre in Katsina where the victims were taken to, the medical director Doctor Umar Abdulmajid confirmed the death of four persons and said nine others were receiving treatment, including one with serious head injuries and another who sustained multiple fractures.

Our correspondent who visited the scene of the accident reports that the three vehicles were lying on the side of the road, while five mobile policemen were drafted to guard the governor's vehicle which was covered with tarpaulin.

Malam Abdulrashid Mashi, who was at the scene of the accident, told our correspondent that while no bystander exactly witnessed what happened, he himself heard a loud bang, only to see the governor's vehicle rising into the air before crashing back to the ground. He said the late ADC was thrown out of the vehicle.

Malam Abdulmajid said Governor Shema himself was helped out of the vehicle amidst the heavy dust that enveloped the crash scene. He said though Shema appeared to be shaken, he apparently did not sustain any major injury because he was able to move about immediately.

Daily Trust learnt that shortly after receiving first aid treatment, the governor entered his spare vehicle and proceeded to Daura, where he received President Goodluck Jonathan. He later boarded the presidential helicopter for the state capital to continue with the campaign rally at Katsina Polo Square.

Meanwhile, the remains of the deceased ADC ASP Aminu Ibrahim was buried at their family house in Sabuwar Kasuwa in Katsina yesterday after a burial prayer attended by the state deputy governor Surajo Damari, the secretary to the state government and the head of service, as well as other officials of the state government.

President Goodluck Jonathan in his campaign address described it as sad news and commiserated with the people of the state over the tragic occurrences while promising to, among others, improve on road infrastructure if given the opportunity to serve again as President in 2011.

