

11 die in Zamfara auto crash

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Gusau

At least five people were reported dead after vehicles they were travelling in got involved in a fatal accident near Yandoto town in Tsafe Local Government area of Zamfara State.

Eyewitnesses said the accident, involving a Volkswagen Gulf with registration number AE36SKF and an 18-seater bus with registration number XF717DAL, occurred at some minutes past 1pm, when the two vehicles collided as they tried to avoid hitting goats crossing the highway.

The vehicles were loaded with passengers at the time of the crash that resulted in the instant death of eight passengers, according to eyewitnesses. Three other persons reportedly died on the way to hospital.

Some of the survivors sustained serious injuries, including bone fractures and were evacuated to hospitals in Gusau and Tsafe local governments. It was learnt that the drivers of the two vehicles had to be cut free as they were trapped in the wreckage mangled vehicles.

Among the occupants of the bus were

businessmen from Moriki, Kaura and Shinkafi returning home from Abuja for Salalah. The Gulf car was however said to be conveying passengers from Gusau.

The incident created temporary traffic gridlock on the Funtua-Gusau highway before the two vehicles were cleared off the road, a traveller said.

"The vehicles were coming on high speed from opposite directions when a herd of goats crossed their path. It was in an attempt to avoid hitting the animals that the two vehicles rammed into each other," said

an eyewitness, Malam Attahiru Usman yandoto. He said a third vehicle which escaped the mishap ended up veering off into the bush.

Meanwhile, the Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission in Zamfara State, Mr. Kalu Orji, attributed the cause of the accident to dangerous overtaking on the part of the drivers.

Mr. Kalu, who confirmed the death of five passengers, also said 19 sustained injuries out of the 26 persons travelling in the two vehicles.