5 NAF personnel, 14 others die in Plateau auto crash

From Ado A. Musa (Jos) & Idowu Isamotu (Abuja)

Nineteen people, including five personnel of the Nigerian Air Force (NAF), died Tuesday in a ghastly motor accident at the Hawan Kibo area of Riyom Local Government Area of Plateau State.

Hawan Kibo is approximately 60 kilometres from Jos, the state capital.

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Plateau State Command's spokesman, Peter Yakubu, confirmed the incident to Daily Trust, stating that all passengers in the vehicle died.

He said, "No one survived the accident. The sole person taken to the hospital later succumbed. 18 died at the scene while one died at the hospital."

NAF spokesman, Olusola Akinboyewa, who also confirmed the accident, said the vehicle the deceased were travelling in had a head-on collision with an oncoming truck.

Akinboyewa, an air commodore of the force, said statutory administrative protocols applicable in circumstances regarding the loss have been activated.

The deceased personnel were among those attending a sports event in Abuja on 22 October. A staff member at Riyom Trauma Hospital, who pleaded anonymity, told our correspondent that the victims' corpses were brought to the hospital Tuesday morning.

She said, "All victims brought to us had already died. Some bodies were unidentifiable due to severe mutilation. As I speak, all corpses have been transferred to a Jos mortuary due to electricity challenges in Riyom Local Government Council."