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Nine feared dead in Kwara auto crash

From Abiodun Fagbemi, Ilorin

NO fewer than nine people were feared dead yesterday afternoon in a ghastly motor accident at a sleepy village called Okepupa along Jebba- Bode Sa'adu road of Kwara State.

A witness, who spoke with The Guardian, disclosed that the accident involved a station wagon car with registration number BE 562 BBK and a tanker marked AXJ 988 LLSB.

Sources said that all the nine passengers in the station wagon, said to be travelling from Lagos State to Birni-Kebbi in Kebbi State, died on the spot. The whereabouts of the tanker's driver could not be ascertained as at press time.

The sources revealed that the tanker's driver while overtaking on a hilly part of the single lane road, suddenly sighted a stationary truck, badly parked on the tanker's side of the road.

In an attempt to manoeuvre from the truck, the source added that the tanker veered off its lane and rammed into the commercial vehicle, crushing to death all the occupants.

When The Guardian visited the scene at about 4p.m. yesterday, pieces of plastic and clothing materials suspected to be property of the victims littered the road. Besides, congealed human blood splashed on the badly crushed car was noticed.

A farmer said he was attracted to the scene by a loud sound and screaming of two trapped victims who later died moments on arrival at the scene.

Some villagers blamed the accident on

alleged negligence of the concerned authority to remove from the spot the truck said to have been involved in an earlier accident some two weeks ago.

An officer of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) in Ilorin, who spoke under anonymity, said he could not confirm the story until getting the reports from its Bode Sa'adu unit where the accident occurred.

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