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Three Kids, 10 Others Die In Yobe Auto Crash

From Ndjauara Musa, Damaturu

Thirteen people were feared dead last Thursday in an autocrash when a passenger bus collided with a Hilux Toyota Sport Utility Van (SUV) at Dogon Kuka, 45 kilometres west of Damaturu, the Yobe State capital.

The accident occurred on the Potiskum-Damaturu Road at 2.p.m. Eyewitnesses said three children died on the spot while the remaining 10 were five males and five females.

He said that besides the deceased, 14 others who were seriously injured are receiving treatment at the Damaturu Specialist hospital and the Sani Abacha Hospital.

The State Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) Mr. Emmanuel Ekekwe said the accident occurred at 2.p.m on Thursday when a Toyota Hilux had a head-on collision with another vehicle from the opposite Maiduguri. Ekekwe attributed the auto crash to reckless driving and overloading of vehicle by the drivers

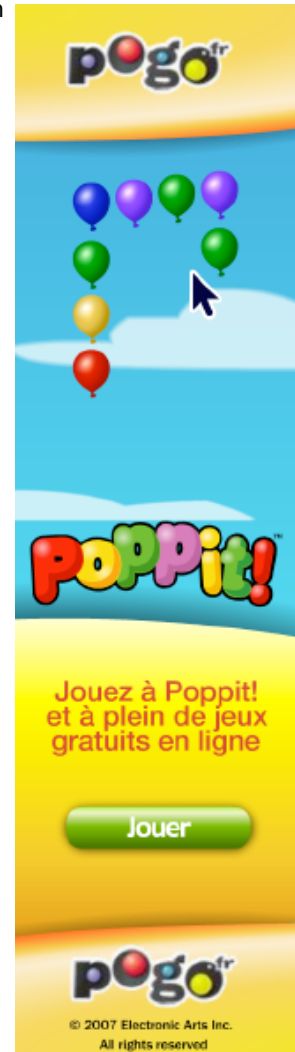
The witness told The Guardian yesterday that the two vehicles were on high speed on the road with many potholes and narrow bends, adding that the driver of the Hilux lost control and veered into the opposite direction before crashing into the passenger bus.

"There were 27 people in the two vehicles, which is very unimaginable...I wonder how a driver can control an overloaded vehicle in terms of distress. It is really unfortunate to lose many lives which could be saved," Ekekwe said

He urged motorists to avoid boarding overloaded vehicles and called on the federal and state governments to assist the commission with equipment to patrol the highways.

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