

22 feared dead in Yobe bus crash

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NO fewer than 22 persons were feared killed on Monday evening when a commercial bus crashed into a construction firm's vehicle on the Potiskum-Kano Road at Dazigau Village in Yobe State.

The bus, according to an eyewitness, had 20 passengers on board from Kano to Maiduguri when the driver lost control and rammed into a truck.

Speaking on the incident, the Yobe Sector Commander of the Federal Roads Safety Commission (FRSC), Shehu Umar, said the crash occurred at Dazigau, seven kilometres to Potiskum, when the 18-seater bus crashed into a truck at about 6 p.m.

According to him, the FRSC rescue team could not reach the scene due to security challenges on the Maiduguri-Kano Road, but "the report on the auto crash indicated that all the passengers, including the driver, died on the spot, and their bodies have been taken to the Potiskum General Hospital morgue for identification by their family members."

The FRSC boss attributed yesterday's crash to "over-speeding to beat the 6 p.m. curfew of the Joint Task Force (JTF) and the police." He lamented that the FRSC in the state had to suspend operation in the area and could not offer rescue operations due to the security challenges in Potiskum.

"Though we do not have all the details of this auto crash, accidents along this road have always been caused by over-speeding and reckless driving, as they are always in a rush to beat the 6 p.m. deadline in Potiskum town."

When The Guardian visited the Potiskum hospital, where two of the accident victims were admitted, one had passed away from the injuries he sustained.

Early January this year, 16 people were also killed at the same village when a commercial bus crashed into a stationary truck while the driver was attempting to beat the 6 p.m. curfew in Potiskum.