

NEWS.

18 die in Benue, Kogi auto crashes

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AN accident involving a 16-seater Hiace bus and a Volkswagen car at Uchi-Mbakor in Tarkaa Local Council of Benue State has left eleven (11) people feared dead.

Eyewitnesses told The Guardian that the accident, which occurred Monday afternoon, had the 16-seater Hiace bus summersaulted thereby leaving the bus into flames that spared no life.

But the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Samson Audu while confirming the incidence, said he could not speak on the number of casualties, as the officers deployed to the scene of the accident were yet to turn in their findings.

Confirming the incidence, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) John Bako, said dead bodies recovered from the accident had been deposited at the Federal Medical Centre, Makurdi.

Also, a fatal accident at Gidan-Bassa Village along the Lokoja-Ajaokuta Highway yesterday claimed the lives of seven persons while 13 others sustained serious injuries.

An eyewitness, who spoke with The Guardian, said the accident occurred when a Toyota Hiace bus engaged in a dangerous overtaking before ramming into a Corolla car, killing seven people and injuring 13 others on the spot.

The Kogi State Sector Commander of the FRSC, Godwin Omiko, while confirming the accident, said it involved a Toyota Hiace bus with registration number AKL 73 YP and a Toyota Corolla car with registration number AA 264 SNA respectively.

He said that 20 persons were involved in the accident, adding that seven died on the spot and 13 others sustained injuries.

The Sector Commander, who said that among the dead were a male, four adult females and one female child, noted that the corpses had been deposited at the Kogi Specialist, Zenith, ASCL and Ankuri hospitals' morgues and the injured ones also taken to the same hospitals for treatment.

According to him, the accident was as a result of dangerous overtaking as well as drunkenness on the part



of one of the drivers.

The commander said the property of the victims were in custody of the Ajaokuta Police Command.

He, however, appealed to road users to always obey traffic rules so as to stay alive, assuring of the commission's determination to reduce accidents to the barest minimum.

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