

24 family members, four others die in Bauchi road crash

By **Rauf Oyewole, Bauchi**

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The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) and the Nigerian Police Force have confirmed the death of 28 passengers in a road accident yesterday morning along Bauchi-Ningi Federal Highway, Bauchi State.

According to the FRSC, 28 people, including four male adults and 24 others were burnt beyond recognition during the accident. Both operatives identified a driver as a survivor. But the police said 10 cows survived while 10 other cattle were burnt beyond recognition. From the 10 surviving cows, eight were later slaughtered due to their fragile conditions.

This is coming one week after six persons were killed along Buchi-Jos road. FRSC Bauchi Sector Commander, AbdulRazak Najume, told newsmen that the accident occurred in the early hours of Thursday involving two vehicles on a head-on collision.

He explained that the accident involved a Peugeot J5 bus and a Toyota Hiace bus with registration number: ZRM-91XA full of passengers while the second vehicle couldn't be ascertained as it was burnt beyond recognition.

Najume said the Toyota bus driver slept off while he lost control and had a head-on collision with the other oncoming vehicle conveying cows. He said he led FRSC officials to the scene of the crash at exactly 6:49a.m. for rescue operation. "The accident occurred at Gubi Gari Village, along Bauchi-Kano highway.

"The vehicle took off from Dutsinma in Katsina State and was on its way to Adamawa State when the accident occurred. There were 29 people who were involved in the crash and only one survived. The driver of the Toyota bus was sleeping and he suddenly woke up to see the other oncoming vehicle but he lost control and had a head-on collision with the J5.

"Immediately the crash occurred, the two vehicles caught fire and all of them including the passengers and the cows were all burnt beyond recognition. It was only the driver of the Toyota bus that survived with serious injuries.

"In all, 28 people, 24 in the Toyota bus and four in the J5, were burnt beyond recognition. We could only identify that four of them were males while the sex of the others could not be ascertained."

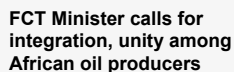
The FRSC boss added that the bodies and the victim who sustained serious injuries were taken to the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital, Bauchi for confirmation and treatment. He expressed sadness over the unfortunate accident and



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