

# Five Feared Dead In Ilorin Road Accident

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No fewer than five people, including two kids, were feared dead in a fatal auto accident between Omupo and Ajase-Ipo highway in Kwara State on Saturday.

The accident involved a Toyota car with registration number Kebbi AE 177 BRK and an 18-seater Nissan Urvan bus painted in commercial vehicles' colour of Lagos State with registration number Oyo XC 857 BDJ.

The two kids, a boy and a girl, were travelling with their parents in the commercial bus.

Other persons feared dead—three young men—were said to be occupants of the Toyota car.

Occupants of the commercial bus, about 17 in number, were said to be members of an extended family.

Apart from the two kids, some other passengers in the bus sustained injuries, while others escaped unhurt.

They were said to have hired the bus from Lagos to convey them from their hometown, Fajeromi, near Omupo to Lagos.

It was learnt that the people came home from Lagos to felicitate with an elderly female member of the family, who was honoured with a chieftaincy title.

The people were said to have left the village for Lagos barely 30 minutes before the accident occurred at the outskirts of Ajase-Ipo from the Omupo axis.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when the Toyota car coming from Ajase-Ipo direction, while trying to avoid pot holes, lost control and hit the upcoming Lagos-bound bus head on.

When *Sunday Independent* visited the scene, three people, including the two kids suspected to have died, were seen on the ground covered with cloth.

Two other persons who seldom gasped heavily were seen at the scene.

They were alongside the three others rushed by a rescuing police team to the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital.

Hospital sources told our correspondent that the two people died before they could be taken to the hospital.

It added that corpses of the five people had been deposited in the mortuary.

The two vehicles involved in the accident were seriously damaged.

Luggage including clothes and edibles, some of which had been destroyed, littered the road at the scene of the accident.

When contacted, spokesman of the state Police Command, Marcus Gideon (DSP), confirmed the accident.

He could not however confirm the deaths, as he said he was yet to have details of the incident.