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Daily Independent (Lagos)**Nigeria: Fika Emir Mourns As Auto Crash Claims 18**

Mohammed Abubakar

16 May 2011

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Damaturu — No fewer than 18 passengers died in a motor accident involving 18-seater and 14-seater buses in Potiskum at the weekend.

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Sources said the buses collided and caught fire - roasting 18 passengers in the process, while others received injuries.

According to eyewitness, the 14-seater bus was returning from Kano and in the course of overtaking a Volkswagen Golf, lost control and collided head-to-head with the other, with the inscription, Jigawa Sunshine Bus. The incident occurred around 10:00am on Friday.

Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) sources confirmed 18 people died in the accident while 11 were receiving treatment at the General Hospital, Potiskum.

Our correspondent, who visited the scene of the accident, which is two kilometers away from the heart of Potiskum town, saw sympathizers trooping to rescue and participate in the mass burial held at the site of the incident.

Emir of Fika and Chairman, Yobe State Traditional Council, Dr. Muhammadu Abali Ibn Muhammadu Idrissa, was among the dignitaries that attended the mass burial

as most of the corpses were burnt to ashes. One of the survivals of the 14-seater bus, who gave his name as Malam Ibrahim, explained that their driver was at fault as he attempted overtaking without minding the oncoming 18-seater bus.

The dead bodies were buried collectively by the road side of the accident scene. The prayer was led by the Deputy Chief Imam of Fika Emirate, Alhaji Muhammadu Maikwano.

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