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Auto crash claims 14 in Yobe

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NO fewer than 14 passengers died when a fuel tanker heading to Maiduguri and a commercial bus going to Potiskum collided and crashed on the Damaturu-Potiskum highway at Ngelzarma town, Fune Local Government Area of Yobe State.

The incident, which also claimed one of the drivers, occurred on Sunday night, Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) source disclosed.

"The passengers died because the truck ran over and trapped the bus in the course of overtaking until the Yobe State government provided a crane to remove the truck before the retrieval of 14 bodies by the rescue team corps," the source said. Maitizumah Gwani, the sector commander of FRSC told newsmen that "the driver of the bus dangerously overtook the fuel tanker at Ngelzarma village and ran into the truck, trapping all the 18 passengers.

"We could not get reports of the accident until this morning. On reaching the scene, our rescue team could not operate to help; as it has no crane to lift the truck and retrieve the bodies from the bus."

He said the Yobe State government provided the crane by 11am on Monday. The four surviving passengers, he added, were taken to the Damaturu Specialists Hospital for the treatment of wounds and fractures they sustained in the crash.

This brings to 34 people killed on the Damaturu-Potiskum road, as 20 people were killed in a similar auto crash involving a bus and a truck in July this year.