

# Bloody weekend as 50 die in road mishap

**A** TOTAL of 50 people lost their lives in two separate accidents in Katsina and Zamfara states at the weekend. In the Katsina accident 18 passengers lost their lives while another two sustained life-threatening injuries when a truck with registration number XA828 FSK had a head-on collision with a bus with registration number XC 862 GUS at Darhin Village, Dutsinma Local Government last Thursday.

The Zamfara accident which claimed 32 lives occurred following the collision of a Peugeot J5 bus registration number AA 136 ABS carrying 25 passengers with a Toyota Liteace bus with registration number Zamfara XA 465MRD.

The *Nation* learnt that the J5 bus was heading to Sokoto from Kaduna while the Toyota Liteace carrying seven passengers was heading to Gusau from Talata Mafara, a local government headquarters in Zamfara State.

Eyewitness accounts reveal that the J5 was on a high speed and in an attempt to dodge an animal trying to cross the road lost control and collided with the bus.

As of the time of filing this report, only two kids survived the accident, while the dead have been taken to the Federal Medical Centre in Gusau.

Our correspondent who was at the scene also gathered that the passengers in the J5 bus mainly women had on several occasion cautioned the driver on his

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excessive speed

The sector commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Mr. Umar Liman told, *The Nation* that the driving culture in the state is so terrible that driver do not obey the rules of traffic, adding that the drivers are always eager to offload their passengers and return for more passengers.

The Katsina accident occurred at Darhi village, Dutsinma Local Government Area of the state.

The *Nation* gathered that the accident occurred at about 10 p.m. when a truck with registration number XA 828 FSK had a head-on collision with a bus with registration number XC 862 GUS.

It was learnt that the accident occurred when the vehicle conveying bags of beans from Dankama town in the state to Sheme village also in the state, lost its front tyre

The driver of the truck lost control and hit the oncoming bus.

The bus somersaulted and caught fire which burnt all the 15 passengers on board while five other passengers in the truck sustained injuries.

The injured persons were rushed to the General Hospital, Dutsinma, where three of them later died. The remains of the deceased had since been deposited at the hospital mortuary.

The Medical Director of the hospital, Dr. Yusuf Oladeji, confirmed the death of the passengers. The police in Dutsinma also confirmed the story but declined comment.

## Akala inaugurates electoral commission

**T**HE Oyo State Governor, Otunba Christopher Alao-Akala, yesterday inaugurated members of the Oyo State Independent Electoral Commission (OYSIEC), charging them to ensure free and fair elections into the 33 Local Government Councils in the State.

Governor Akala further charged members of the electoral body to be focused, dedicated and committed to justice and fairness, to shun indolence, rumour mongering and partisan considerations in the discharge of their duties.

It would be recalled that Akala's predecessor, Senator Rashidi Ladoja had on May 24, 2007 conducted an election through the OYSIEC into the 33 local councils, and swore the 33 Chairmen in before he left office.

The Chairmen were however sacked by Akala immediately he assumed office on May 20, 2007 as the