

# Three UNIMAID students die in auto crash

**A** ghastly motor accident has claimed the lives of three undergraduates of the University of Maiduguri.

The three, who were said to be final year Law students of the institution died on the spot of the accident which occurred around 3.00pm on Wednesday at Murfa-Kalam village along Potiskum Road, about 10 kilometers away from Damaturu, the Yobe State capital.

Among the victims of the accident was the president of the Bauchi State Students' Union (NUBASS), Unimaid chapter, who was simply identified as Abdulrasheed. He was also said to have died on the spot. Seven other

■ Duku JOEL, Damaturu ■ people including five women were said to have sustained injuries in the accident and are receiving treatment at the Sani Abacha Specialist Hospital.

The Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) in Yobe State, Emmanuel Ekekwe confirmed the accident. He told reporters that the corpses of the students and the injured persons have been taken to the Sani Abacha Specialist Hospital Damaturu.

Ekekwe said the 'lone accident' involved a Peugeot Boxer Bus with registration number BB 498 TRB belonging to Taraba State

Transport Corporation which had a rare tyre burst and somersaulted severally before it ran into the bush.

An eye witness, Yusuf Tata, said the driver of the bus who did not sustain any injury had overloaded the bus with luggages "apart from more than 20 passengers on board."

FRSC boss, Yobe State, Ekekwe also attributed the accident to over-speeding. "From the way the bus looks, it is more than 20 years old, and therefore not fit to embark on such a long trip. I think the driver was over speeding in order to convey the passengers for Maulud and Easter break," he said.

*The Nation's* findings revealed that several accidents

occurred along the Potiskum-Damaturu-Maiduguri Road causing several deaths and injuries to commuters between January and March. The road, according to expert information, is notorious for accidents in recent times.

Some people interviewed hoped that the contractors handling the dualization of the road would hasten the project in order to reduce the increasing loss of lives and property in the road.

*The Nation* however observed that work on the road has been slow as no substantial distance has been covered between Kano and Maiduguri, the two major commercial cities of the north.

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