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# 15 party supporters dead in Jos road crash

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**TWENTY** persons, all supporters of the Labour Party (LP) from Bokkos Local Government of Plateau State, died in an accident on the Barkin Ladi-Jos road yesterday.

The crash involved a bus carrying supporters of the party from Daho, Hottom and Kombur villages to the state rally of LP at the Jos Polo field.

Eyewitnesses said the Jos-bound bus collided with a Mazda bus, which was carrying members of the Church of Christ in Nigeria (COCIN) from Kaduna.

It was learnt the parishioners were going to attend the funeral of their colleague in Mangu.

At the State Specialists Hospital, doctors were attending to eight victims.

Two others died at the hospital.

Victims of the accident were taken to the nearby General Hospital in Barkin Ladi.

Those with severe injuries were referred to the Specialist Hospital and Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH).

Governor Jonah Jang visited the victims on his way to Mangu on a tour.

He addressed party supporters in Mangu and observed a minute's silence in honor of the victims.

Secretary of the Publicity Sub-committee of the state campaign council of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Ayuba Pam Dangwong said: "Governor Jang has sent a condolence message to the people of Bokkos Local Government."

Thirteen of the victims, who died on the spot, were taken to the mortuaries of the JUTH and the Specialist Hospital.

Police spokesman Apev Jacob, who confirmed the accident, said 13 people died and 21 passengers were injured.

Some of those that died were a couple, from Daho village in Bokkos.

A survivor, Matthew Bala, said five vehicles were involved in the accident.

He said one of the vehicles was over speeding.

Bala said: “The accident occurred at a sharp bend in Kassa village of Barkin Ladi Local Government.

“We took off from the village, and on our way to Jos to attend the state rally of the Labour Party.

“We we are all members of the party, some of us are from Daho, Hottom and Kombur.

“We noticed the bus in front was over speeding.

“I called him on phone to stop and when he stopped, I went to him and pleaded with him to take it easy.

“The driver agreed to my pleas. But then, he began speeding again. I called him a second time on phone. He refused to pick my call.

“Shortly after, I saw him overtaking three vehicles. This was the move that resulted in the multiple crash.

“If it was a direct head-on, the casualties would have been minimal.

Bala was at the Specialist Hospital assisting doctors in identifying victims.

He said some of those who died were taken to JUTH because the mortuary at the Specialist Hospital could not accommodate everyone.



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