

Five NAF officers, 15 others die in Plateau accident

Isaac Shobayo | Jos

AN accident on the Jos-Abuja highway, on Monday night claimed 20 passengers and left others with serious injuries.

It was gathered that five among the deceased were officers of the Nigerian Air Force (NAF).

An eyewitness told the *Nigerian Tribune* that the accident occurred at Hawan Kibo community in Riyom Local Government Area of the state at about 8:00p.m when the 18-seater Toyota bus had a head-on collision with a trailer, leading to multiple accidents on the highway.

The eyewitness disclosed that all the passengers in the bus

were coming from Adamawa State and heading to Abuja, while the trailer was coming in the opposite direction.

The source said bus collided with the trailer at a sharp bend, just as he added that before the victims could be rescued, most of them had died, while two other passengers in another vehicle who sustained injuries later died

at the Trauma Hospital close to the scene of the accident.

Spokesperson for the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) Plateau State sector command, Mr Yakubu Longsan, who confirmed the accident, stated that all the passengers in the Toyota bus perished.

Longsan said: "No one survived the accident. The sole person taken to the hospital

later succumbed to his injuries. Eighteen died at the scene, while one died in the hospital."

A staff member of the Riyom Trauma Hospital who did not want his name to be mentioned stated that the corpses were brought to the hospital in the early hours of Tuesday, adding that the two others who were struggling for life later died in the course

of treatment.

She said: "All victim brought to us had already died. Some bodies were unidentifiable due to severe mutilation. As I speak, all corpses have been transferred to Jos mortuary due to electricity challenges in Riyom Local Government Area, while two others who we were trying to revive equally died."