

National tragedy: 22 Team Kano members die in road crash

By Ganiyu Salman and Kola Oyelere

Nigerian sports has again been thrown into mourning, as no fewer than 22 members of the Kano State's contingent to the just-ended 22nd National Sports Festival tagged **Gateway Games 2024** lost their lives via road accident at the weekend.

The bus conveying the state's contingent was said to have report-

edly lost control at the Dakstalle Bridge about 50km from Kano, and plunged into the river with 30 passengers on board.

The victims include athletes, journalists, medical personnel, and administrators who were part of the Kano State's contingent to the Games held in Ogun State.

Chairman of the Kano State Sports Commission, Umar Bala Fagge, confirmed the incident.

"As I am speaking to you now, we have counted 19 bodies, the bus, which was carrying 30 persons, including athletes and officials, fell off the bridge.

"Rescue efforts are ongoing, and the injured have been taken to the Kura General Hospital for medical treatment," Fagge said.

Also, one of the survivors, Ado Salisu, a seasoned sports journalist confirmed the incident

Speaking from the Kura General Hospital on Saturday morning, Salisu who of the was still receiving care at the hospital at Sani the time of this report reportedly said: of the "22 people have been confirmed dead who at Dakatsalle bridge, just before Kura. wee The driver too is dead. As I speak with Th you, one other member just died." from

Recall that Team Kano finished **Gan** 13th on the Gateway Games' final ter h medals table with six gold, 11 silver and 10 bronze medals.

Abiodun mourns sports heroes