

# Seven killed, six injured in auto crash

**Francis Falola, Minna**

NO fewer than seven persons on Wednesday lost their lives, while six others were seriously injured, as two commercial buses had a head-on collision following road obstruction by a team of local government revenue collectors.

The incident which happened after Maje Roundabout in Suleja Local Government Area of Niger

State involved a Blue Toyota Hiace with registration number XB797KJA and a white Peugeot J5 with registration number AA790AKA.

Our correspondent gathered that the two vehicles were coming at opposite directions when the J5 ran into the Toyota Hiace, while attempting to avoid the long wood with nails placed on the road by local government tax collectors.

The remains of the seven

persons, our correspondent gathered, had been deposited at the mortuary of the Suleja General Hospital, where the six injured persons were also undergoing treatment.

The casualty figure of 13 in the accident, which occurred around 8pm in the night, included two women.

The Niger Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Alhaji Ambo Indabawa, confirmed the incident in an interview with our correspondent in Minna on Thursday.

He regretted the high number of casualties involved, stating that the men of the National Union of Road Transport Workers moved three of the deceased to the mortuary on the night of the incident, while the men of the FRSC evacuated four early in the morning of the following day.

The sector commander said, "This development has made it imperative for the government to devise a better way of revenue collection. The idea of putting a long stick with nails as obstruction on the road in the process of tax collections by local government officials is to say the least barbaric."

## Dariye restates commitment to youth empowerment

**Jude Owuamanam, Jos**

THE Plateau State Governor, Chief Joshua Dariye, has restated the commitment of his administration to policies and programmes that will empower the youths of the state.

Dariye, who spoke in Jos on Thursday at a workshop, "Productive Attitude Development for Self Employment," said that it was the only way to keep them busy and divert their attention from delinquent acts.

The workshop was organised by the Jos Business School in conjunction with the International Centre for reconciliation, based in the United Kingdom, and the

preneurs in the state, urged them to make the best use of the training they would receive.

In his welcome address, The President of the Jos Business School, Mr. Ezekiel Gomos, said that the bulk of those who died during the protracted crises in Plateau were youths, who became willing tools in the hands of those who wanted to destroy the state.

He said that the only way to engage the attention of delinquent youths was to continuously engage them in entrepreneurial development, adding that this had become imperative as the youths constituted the majority of the citizens of the state.

## Igbo protest in Kano