

## Three killed, 15 hospitalised in Yobe auto crash

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By Uthman Salami

The Yobe State Police Command has confirmed the death of three persons in a fatal crash that occurred in the Karasuwa Local Government Area of the state on Saturday.

*PUNCH Metro* gathered that a driver and two passengers, who sat on the front seat, lost their lives on the spot following the accident.

The police told our correspondent that 15 other passengers who sustained varying degrees of injuries were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment.

The command's spokesperson, Dungus Abdulkarim, told *PUNCH Metro* in a telephone interview on Sunday that the crash happened around midday.

He said, “The accident occurred between 11:00 am and 12:00 pm on Saturday. As of yesterday (Saturday), we only recorded three passengers who died on the spot.

“The deceased include the driver and two passengers who sat in the front seat during the accident.

“Fifteen passengers were also taken to the hospital as of yesterday. And we haven’t received any further casualties among those in the hospital as of this time.”

Abdulkarim said the police investigations revealed that the crash involved an 18-seater bus conveying passengers from Jakusko.

The driver was said to have lost control of the vehicle while attempting to overtake a tricycle.

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According to Abdulkarim, “The bus was attempting to overtake the Keke NAPEP driver who was also on the road. Immediately after he overtook the tricycle, he collided with an incoming pick-up van.

“They didn’t have a head-to-head collision because the pick-up van driver tried to dodge the bus. So, as a result, the bus rammed into the rear tyre of the van.”

The impact reportedly caused the bus to somersault several times.

Abdulkarim added, “The driver lost his head instantly. His head was severed from the body.

“The two passengers who were in the front seat also lost their lives on the spot.

“The three people in the front died on the spot, while several others in the bus sustained varying degrees of injuries.”

This incident comes months after a similar accident in February on the Damaturu–Maiduguri Road, where 10 people were killed and 12 others injured.

That crash occurred at a security checkpoint in Warsala Town when a truck loaded with cement and passengers lost control, rammed into a car, and plunged into a ditch.