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Eight Yobe college staff die in auto crash

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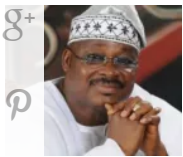
Eight staff of Yobe College of Education, Gashua, lost their lives on Saturday in a motor accident on Bayamari-Dapchi highway. This came as one person died yesterday when a truck carrying wheat rammed into another conveying



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Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) otherwise called fuel on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway at Oremeji area of Ibadan, Oyo State.

The eight non-academic staff, including the driver, were travelling from Gashua to Damaturu in the college bus to attend a promotion examination.

The survivors said the vehicle had a burst tyre, which forced it to somersault several times thereby killing eight people while five others sustained injuries.

The Provost of the college, Alhaji Muhammad Gishiwari, who confirmed the accident, said it was a huge loss to the college. Meanwhile, Governor Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam of Yobe has described the death of the staff as a great loss to the state, their families and the country.

Gaidam prayed for the repose of the departed souls and a quick recovery for the injured people. The Ibadan accident occurred about 7a.m. when the driver of the truck conveying wheat with registration number JGW 418 XA lost control and rammed into the petrol tanker which skidded off the road, fell and caught fire.

The content of the tanker spilled on the road stretching about two kilometres, forcing people to scamper into safety. At least 18 vehicles were burnt in the accident among them

were five articulated vehicles, a Nissan Micra used for taxi and two commercial buses.

The accident caused a gridlock for many hours which stretched towards Academy on the Lagos axis and the whole of Iwo Road in the Ibadan metropolis.

Many motorists and commuters had to seek alternative routes while several others abandoned their journey. Men of the Oyo State Fire Service and security personnel made frantic efforts to clear the road.

A witness, Michael Adetunji, said he was waiting for a taxi to take him to church when the incident occurred. He said: "I was going to church in the morning and I decided to take a taxi instead of driving.

I was waiting for the taxi when the wheat truck rammed into the truck loaded with fuel. The tanker fell and somersaulted several times. "There was a huge fire immediately and some vehicles were caught in the inferno.

I saw a dead body but maybe there is more because I don't know how the driver and other occupants of the vehicle carrying petroleum product could survive without the special grace of God.

After the fire, we will be able to ascertain the number of casualty." The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO),

Adekunle Ajisebutu (SP), confirmed the accident.

He said: “I heard about it and alerted the control room to move to the place. As we speak, our men are still there. I do not have the detail of the accident because we are still investigating. I can also confirm that no life was lost in the accident but 10 vehicles and several shops were burnt.”



Sola Adeyemo

About the Author

