

## Mass Burial for 36 Gusau Crash Victims

This Day (Lagos)

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By Imam Imam

Gusau

A mass burial was held weekend, for the 36 persons who were burnt to death after a ghastly motor accident along Gusau-Sokoto road last Friday evening. Zamfara State government had earlier released the sum of N300,000 for the burial, conducted by both Muslim and Christian clerics in Gusau.

The crash, which involved a Peugeot J5 vehicle with registration number AE136ABS from Kaduna and a Toyota Hiace with registration number XA465-MRD, were involved in a head-on collision along Gusau-Sokoto road, off Federal Government Girls College, Gusau.

Reporters at the scene of the accident gathered that the two vehicles burst in flame immediately after the collision, charring the passengers beyond recognition. So far, four persons out of nine survivors were in critical condition, among whom were five children.

The fire was later put off by staff of the fire service department, while security agents operating in the state made up of police, FRSC and members of civil defence transported the charred remains and the injured to hospital.

One of the survivors, Mikailu Sanusi, who was going to Gusau enroute Sokoto, said driver of the J5 vehicle lost control, left his lane and rammed into the Hiace vehicle.

Zamfara State Governor, Alhaji Mahmud Aliyu Shinkafi, who visited the scene of the accident expressed shock and sympathy. Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Alhaji Umar Liman and the Deputy Commandant, Civil Defence, Mr Walter Akunbumi, described the J5 vehicle as a vehicle with serious threat to lives, saying it is mechanically weak and not road worthy and called on the Federal Government to immediately ban the use of the vehicle.

Zamfara State Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Lawal Abdullahi, confirmed the incident and said the accident killed 33 people, 13 males and 20 females, while six of the nine survivors are on admission at Federal Medical Centre, Gusau.