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Ex-Gov Turaki to be Flown to Germany

•37 die in road accidents

From Hammed Shittu in Ilorin with agency report, 04.14.2009

President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua has approved foreign treatment for former governor of Jigawa State and serving Senator, Alhaji Saminu Turaki, who was involved in a road accident on Saturday.

Turaki was on his way from Kebbi, where he had gone for a wedding, when his SUV, a Hummer, reportedly veered off the road and somersaulted, leading to his sustaining multiple injuries and fracturing an arm.

THISDAY reported yesterday that he was at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the National Hospital, Abuja.

It was gathered last night that the former governor, who is said to be in stable condition now, would be flown to an undisclosed hospital in Germany for specialist attention.

"He is talking now and can recognise people, but his arms hurts," a source told THISDAY last night. "Graciously, the President has approved that he be taken abroad for treatment."

Turaki had intended to travel to Singapore for treatment but the President was said to have preferred Germany because of the country's expertise in treating accident injuries.

Turaki had been flown in from Sokoto Airport to the Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport, Abuja, where he was received by a medical team, including Dr. David Ukoha, Personal Doctor to the Senate President, Senator David Mark.

Meanwhile, 37 people lost their lives in separate road accidents in Bode Saadu, Kwara State, and Dungun-Ma'azu village, along Funtua-Dandume road in Katsina State on Sunday.

In Bode Saadu, two buses were said to have had a head-on collision, which resulted in the death of 24 people, while another 10 are on danger list in hospitals in Jebba.

According to a witness, the two buses – one going from the Southern part of the country to the North, while the other was coming from the north to the south – collided while trying to avoid a motorcyclist who suddenly crossed the main road.

The witness said the motorcyclist later fled the scene of the accident.

He said people from the town, after the accident, informed officials of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Jebba Unit Command.

The FRSC officials, who quickly responded to the distress call, organized the movement of the injured to various hospitals in Jebba metropolis, while the dead were taken to mortuaries in the town.

Contacted yesterday, a senior officer of the FRSC, Kwara State Sector Command asked the relatives of those who travelled last Sunday along the road to check the hospitals in Jebba.

On the Dungun-Ma'azu village along Funtua-Dandume road accident in Katsina State, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) gathered that the victims were returning home after attending a marriage ceremony in Minna, Niger State.

Witnesses said the vehicle, conveying the victims had a tyre burst, which resulted in the driver losing control of the vehicle and the eventual crashing of the vehicle resulting in the death of the 13 occupants, who included women and children.

Only the driver and his conductor were said to have survived. Speaking to newsmen, Malam Abdulbasir Kafinta, who lost a wife and daughter, described the incident as an act from Allah.

Efforts to get the reaction of both the police and the FRSC were not successful as they did not respond to calls made by NAN.

Six persons had also lost their lives in another auto accident on Saturday in Malumfashi, Katsina State.

The victims were being transported in a truck loaded with wheat flour when the driver lost control and headed into a bush.

More than 60 persons were said to be on the truck coming to

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the North from Lagos, and some of the injured are now on admission at Malumfashi General Hospital.

COMMENTS [total: 19]

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