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THIS DAY

**Nigeria: Accidents Claim 19 in Ilorin, Kano**

Hammed Shittu And Ibrahim Shuaibu in Kano

10 August 2009

Ilorin — Nineteen people have been reportedly killed in two separate accidents in Ilorin, the Kwara state capital, and Rijiyar Lemo in Kano metropolitan in Kano state.

14 persons were feared killed, yesterday, while many sustained varying degrees of injuries in an auto crash involving two commercial buses at Gimba, Kabbawode, along Idofian road in Ilorin.

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A family of five, made up of three women and two children, also lost their lives, weekend, in an outbreak of fire which occurred as a result of petrol explosion at Rijiyar Lemo in Kano metropolitan. 10 other persons who allegedly sustained serious injuries are currently receiving treatment at the Murtala Mohammed Hospital in Kano.

Eye witness account told THISDAY yesterday that the Ilorin accident occurred around 1.00 p.m when one of the commercial buses, in an attempt to over-take another vehicle, had a head-on collision with an on-coming bus from the other direction.

The account added further that one of the buses was coming from Ilorin and heading to Osun state while the other bus was coming from Ekiti state and heading to Ilorin.

The source said that the drivers of the two commercial buses and the passengers sitting at the front seats lost their lives on the spot.

It was also gathered that the impact of the accident was so terrible that 10 people lost their lives on the spot while many sustained serious injuries.

Sources added that members of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) who were on patrol along the road and with the assistance of the villagers were able to evacuate the bodies of the dead people as the two commercial buses had to be cut into pieces to enable the FRSC officers to remove trapped bodies and those that were injured.

Sources close to the FRSC confirmed to THISDAY yesterday evening that the remains of the dead passengers had been deposited in the mortuary of University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital while those that sustained various injuries are presently receiving treatment at the same hospital.

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When THISDAY visited the emergency ward of the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital, one of the nurses on duty who spoke on condition of anonymity disclosed that four more people lost their lives when they were receiving treatment while those that are still alive were responding to treatment. She said that most of the passengers had head injuries as a result of the impact of the accident.

The Kano accident, according to an eye witness, occurred over the weekend at a wedding ceremony, when a jerry can filled with petrol exploded, killing the three women and two children.

THISDAY sources in Kano said that the fire outbreak occurred when a member of the family lit a bonfire in

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a bid to prepare a ceremonial feast . He further disclosed that the members were cooking food for the preparation of the wedding luncheon their members, Auwalu Musa and stated that the four victims of the inferno died on the spot, while the fifth gave up the ghost in the hospital . According to the source, as a result of erratic power supply in the area , the family of Alhaji Musa Mainama , opted to put their generating set to source for power during the ceremony. However , the explosion occurred when a pregnant daughter of the family was attempting to remove a jerry can filled with petrol and said to be placed not very far from where the cooking was taking place . Four of the victims of the inferno were said to have died on the spot while the fifth passed on in the hospital . THISDAY sources said the victims have been buried at the Rijyar Lemo grave yard in Kano.

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