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## 28 Die in Bauchi, Katsina Road Mishap

From Segun Awofadeji in Bauchi, 07.21.2010

No fewer than 28 persons were confirmed dead, while seven others were hospitalised with various degrees of injuries in two road accidents in Katsina State and along the Bauchi-Jos road yesterday.

The Bauchi accident, which involved a tanker with registration number XA 744 FKY belonging to ALMA™U Ventures, was travelling from Bauchi to Jos and a 14-seater bus with number plate Bauchi XB 203 MSA said to have left Abuja Monday morning for Bauchi.

Mallam Zaradeen Babayo, who witnessed the accident, told THISDAY that the driver of the tanker lost control of his tanker and veered off his lane and ran into the on-coming bus.

The tire marks of the tanker and the bus were visibly seen on the other side of the road on which the 14-seater bus was facing.

Babayo, who said the accident occurred between 1pm and 2pm, added that the driver of the bus tried to control his vehicle after being hit by the tanker but eventually ran off the road and somersaulted before the bus burst into flames.

The accident which occurred at Hakayafi village, 13 kilometres from Bauchi, claimed seven lives on the spot.

The newspaper, which visited the accident scene, met officials of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) and the police picking some severed human parts of the victims into their vehicles.

The bus and some personal effects of the passengers were still burning when THISDAY visited the scene at 3pm while sympathisers and travellers openly shed tears on sighting the gory scene.

At the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital, Bauchi, where the remains of the passengers were taken, one more passenger died, a hospital source confirmed, saying all in all so far eight people have died and we have moved their bodies to the mortuary as you can see.

The source further revealed that inside here we are treating five of them, pointing at some of the victims whose limbs were broken.

As at press time, the police and FRSC officials were yet to make any statement on the cause of the accident.

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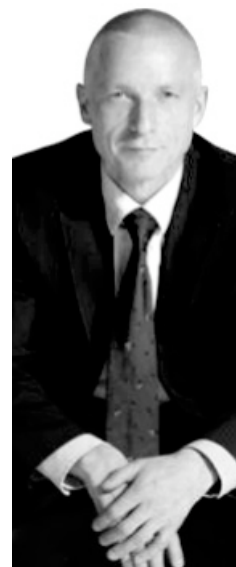
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