

24 people burnt to death in auto crash

By Demola Akinyemi

ILORIN—FOUR days after the driver of a crane loader lost control in Challenge area of Ilorin, killing six people, another tragedy struck at Bode-Saadu, along Ilorin- Jebba road on Saturday when 24 persons were burnt to death in a motor accident.

Details of the crash were still scanty as at the time of filing this report but a staff Officer with the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in Kwara, Mr. Dana Bello who also confirmed the incident said the tragedy involved an 18-seater Toyota Bus and a tanker. He blamed the accident on wrong overtaking by one of the drivers.

According to him, "a Toyota 18-seater bus and a tanker were burnt beyond recognition, with all their occupants. They collided when the tanker driver attempted to overtake another vehicle but in the process veered off the road and headed straight for the bus which was conveying passengers to Ilorin, the Kwara state capital from Lagos. The tanker was headed towards one of the northern states."

Bello added that the FRSC officials arrived at the casualty figures from the number of skulls they could count at the spot. Officers of the FRSC, health officers of Moro Local Government, and the police drafted to the scene of the accident have jointly agreed to give the victims a mass burial at a spot not too far from the scene of the accident.

The spokesman of the state police command DSP Markus Gideon who confirmed the incident with *Vanguard* said the decision became imperative because all the victims were burnt beyond recognition.