

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2021

:Vanguard News



:@vanguardnews

NEWS HOTLINES: 08052867023, 08052867058

# 14 burnt to death in Bayelsa auto crash

By Samuel Oyadongha

**YENAGOA** — NO fewer than 14 persons were reportedly burnt to death in auto crash near Sampou community on the Bayelsa stretch of the East-West Road.

Four others sustained serious injuries and were rushed to a medical facility at the riverside town of Kaiama, Kolokuma-Opokuma Local Government Area of the state.

According to the Federal Road

Safety Commission, FRSC, the auto crash, which occurred about 5p.m. on Monday, was caused by wrongful overtaking and over-speeding.

Vanguard learned that the accident involved a Toyota Hiace bus with numberplate, LND 247 XX, and a black Lexus SUV with numberplate, KWL 726 GN.

The bus was said to have departed Lagos and heading to Port Harcourt, Rivers State, while the Lexus SUV was heading towards Delta State, when they

collided close to Sampou junction on the troubled stretch of the East-West Road.

While the driver of the Lexus SUV was said to have sustained minor injury, the Toyota Hiace bus with about 14 passengers, including a kid sister to one of the lucky survivors, were burnt to ashes.

The incident reportedly caused gridlock on the single lane road, which other section had since been abandoned, prompting anxious motorists to meander through the

narrow and dilapidated section of the road.

"Only four passengers could be rescued from the bus because of the intensity of the inferno while the others were burnt to ashes," an eyewitness said, adding that the rescued victims were later rushed to a nearby hospital.

The FRSC, in its report, stated that 19 persons were involved but 14 were burnt beyond recognition.

"Five persons—three males and two females—survived the accident. The injured were rushed to Kaiama General Hospital," the report stated.

... with 50 wives