

Abia: Truck kills 8, injures 6 at Aba waterside bridge

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TRAGEDY struck at the Aba Waterside Bridge Thursday as 8 persons lost their lives in a ghastly motor accident involving a trailer, 3 tricycles, and an Abia Line Network bus.

A truck with registration number: Abia XA 555 UNC carrying gravel was said to have rammed into the 3 tricycles and the Abia Line Network bus as well as a trailer belonging to Flour Mills Nigeria Limited with registration number: Lagos XR 912 LSR.

Eyewitness accounts revealed that 8 persons died on the spot, including 5 passengers who boarded the Abia Line Network as the truck hit the bus and tricycle.

A woman who simply gave her name as Mercy said that the truck loaded with gravel lost its brakes while descending the hill at the Umuoba road junction and rammed into the Abia Line Network Bus and the 3 tricycles.

Mr. Chidozie Ndukwe who was visibly shocked at the incident blamed the truck driver for descending the hill on a high speed. He added that the driver

and conductor of the truck were among the people conveyed to various hospitals for medical treatment as they were thrown out of their truck when they jammed the Abia Line Network bus.

"When the accident happened, people immediately rushed to the scene for rescue efforts. There was no way to identify the driver or conductor. They fell off their truck as their car hit

the Abia Line commuter bus," he said.

When our correspondent visited the scene of the accident, the wreckage of the tricycle was still there while the Abia Line bus was being towed away. Six injured victims were being carried into a standby vehicle while the dead persons were also moved to an ambulance.

A cross section of people who spoke to our

correspondent called on the state and federal government to quickly rehabilitate the Enugu/Port Harcourt expressway to reduce the number of vehicles plying the along Aba Ikot Ekpene road and Umuoba roads leading to Ururuka road which now serves as an alternative route for motorists to the state capital, Umuahia and neighbouring states of Akwa Ibom and Cross River.

12 countries indicate interest to participate in 2012 Abuja carnival

CHIEF Edem Duke, the Minister of Tourism, Culture and National Orientation, said on Friday that 12 countries had indicated interest to participate in the 2012 Abuja Carnival.

Duke told newsmen in Abuja that the event with the theme, "Carnival of Peace and Harmony", is scheduled for November 24 to November 27.

According to Duke, the 8th edition of the carnival intends to feature a minimum of 15 events aimed at transforming the

cultural orientation and values of the country.

He said it would also serve as a platform for the youth, women and special groups to express their creativity.

The minister said government intended "to use culture as enterprise to ensure that we escalate the understanding of the creative industry."

Duke said the event would also serve as an opportunity for the promotion of the local economy.

The minister listed some countries that confirmed

interest to participate in the carnival as Egypt, India, Trinidad and Tobago, China and South Africa.

Others are Cameroon, The Sudan, Botswana, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Senegal.

He said the carnival would feature 15 events instead of the nine in the past.

Duke announced the introduction of competitions in areas of creative industry among primary schools in and around the city to encourage and develop the creative ingenuity of pupils.