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Eight crushed to death in Kugbo accident

By Ibraheem A. Fatai, Abubakar Yakubu & Usman A. Bello

EIGHT persons were yesterday afternoon crushed to death at Kugbo, Abuja, when a truck with faulty brake descended from a hill and crushed 14 vehicles.

An eye witness, who put the time of the incident at 12 pm, said the tipper driver was descending the hill at Kugbo Mechanic village when the vehicle's brake system failed.

"The driver while struggling to control the tipper ran into a bus first, killing all its passengers and squeezing the vehicle beyond recognition," he said.

He said eight persons died in the accident, while two others sustained serious injuries and were rushed to the Asokoro General Hospital.

Confirming the death and injured, Nyanya Unit Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Godwin Apochi, said five vehicles were badly damaged and taken to the police station, while FRSC officials are still battling to cut the mangled bus away from the tipper.

The unit commander said the road has been cleared, adding that hold up is being caused by motorists stopping at the scene of the accident to take a look at the wreckages.

Mr Apochi also stated that another accident happened at 9 pm Monday.

He said the accident occurred when a Mercedes Benz 190 car rammed into a stationary truck at Kugbo.

"The Mercedes car was ascend-

ing the Kugbo hill when it ran into a stationary tripper and we rescued the car driver and rushed him to Asokoro General Hospital.

Our reporters learnt that both accidents caused serious traffic jams along the Nyanya- Abuja expressway yesterday morning and afternoon that saw motorists spending endless hours on the road.

The Nyanya FRSC unit commander blamed both accidents on human factors and brake failures.

He advised motorists to always reduce their speed when descending a hill, adding that motorists should drive carefully whenever they pass accident spots.

"I also advise motorists to obey traffic rules, repair their faulty vehicles and ensure that their brakes are working very well," he added.