

# 14 die in Ebonyi auto crash

**T**he Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) has confirmed the death of 14 persons in an auto crash that occurred on Saturday at Amasiri Secondary School junction, along Afikpo-Okigwe road in Ebonyi State.

Mr Roland Ogbuke, Afikpo Unit Commander of FRSC, told newsmen yesterday that the accident involved an articulated vehicle and a 14-seater bus.

According to him, the bus was conveying members of the Assemblies of God Church, Isu in Ohaozara Local Government Area,

who were returning from a burial.

"We received a distress call on Saturday and immediately mobilised my rescue officers to the scene of the incident. We are not sure of the cause of the accident, but a witness told us that the articulated vehicle was trying to dodge a heap of sand on the road and ended up hitting the oncoming vehicle.

"The impact of the hit by the articulated vehicle threw the bus to a tree some metres away from the road and squeezed it into some zero shape that mangled bodies of the occupants. We had to mobilise a nearby

quarry company which used its heavy duty machine to cut the tree and the bus, in order to evacuate the mangled bodies of the passengers," he said.

Ogbuke remarked that the crushed passengers were mostly women, adding that their relatives and church members, who were in other vehicles, helped FRSC officers in the evacuation process.

"The police in particular assisted the FRSC in evacuating the bodies to the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Afikpo," he said. (NAN)

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