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① 19 killed in Enugu road crash

From Damian Duruiheoma, Enugu, with agency report

NINETEEN occupants of a passenger bus were killed on Easter eve after a collision with a Mercedes truck with registration number AAA285XR in Enugu State.

The accident occurred on Saturday night at Ituku Town in Awgu Local Government Area on the Enugu-Port Harcourt Expressway. The driver and 18 passengers on the bus with registration number NKE622XA all burnt beyond recognition as the vehicle exploded after the collision that occurred around 8:20pm.

The tipper driver, alleged to have driven against traffic, sustained injuries and was rushed to the hospital for treatment.

It was gathered that the passenger bus had conveyed the occupants from Aba, Abia State to Enugu before the unfortunate incident occurred about 20kms to the metropolis.

Confirming the incident, the Commissioner of Police (CP), Ahmed Ammani, cautioned motorists against disobeying road traffic rules, suing for caution.

A statement by the command's spokesman, Daniel Ndukwe, quoted the CP as saying the tipper which was loaded with bags of cement, plied against traffic from Enugu City.

He said the accident resulted in both vehicles exploding and all occupants getting burnt beyond recognition except the tipper driver who was rescued and taken to the hospital.

The CP, Ndukwe said, ordered the State Traffic Officer to carry out full-scale investigation into the incident, including evacuating the remains, obtaining the exact identities of the deceased victims and their relatives, as well as coming up with actionable report.

Spokesman for the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Bisi Kazeem, an Assistant Corps Marshal, in a statement said the victims were given mass burial.