

Death toll in Auchi auto crash hits 20

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THE death toll in the early morning auto crash in Auchi, Et-sako West Local Government Area of Edo State, on Wednesday has risen to over 20, *Nigerian Tribune* reliably gathered.

The accident occurred in the northern Edo town after an articulated vehicle con-

veying bags of cement reportedly crashed into several shops in the city centre.

A source at the Auchi office of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), however, confirmed that six persons died in the tragedy, while 16 were injured.

Grisly viral video of the accident, showing several corpses by the road side and the scene of the tragic incident

has hit the internet.

An eyewitness, Mr. Sani Aliu, disputed the claim of the FRSC source, insisting that there were corpses everywhere at the scene of the accident.

Sani, a stalwart of the All Progressives Congress (APC), disclosed that he arrived at the new figure after more bodies were recovered from the rubble of the shops and under the trailer.

He said: "The scene was chaotic and looked like the site of a bomb blast. There were mangled corpses everywhere on the road when they were brought out from the buildings and under the truck."

The road safety official said that the whereabouts of the driver and his motor boy remain unknown as they immediately jumped out of the

wreckage and ran away when the accident happened.

The FRSC source said that the ill-fated vehicle which was coming from the popular upgarage area of the polytechnic town was descending the hill when it suddenly had break failure and the driver lost control in the process.

Sani lamented that he was speechless when he got to

the scene of the accident which is popularly referred to as Igbo Shade, adding that the vehicle rammed many shops, killing several persons and destroying goods worth several millions of naira.

"Auchi is in deep mourning. Over 20 persons are feared dead and several are still trapped in the collapsed buildings. The sight is gruesome," he stated.