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## 14 die in Osun auto crash

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Published: Wednesday, 5 Mar 2008

Tragedy struck at the Ikire end of the Ilesha-Ibadan Expressway on Tuesday when a 18-passenger commercial bus ran into a stationary truck, killing 14 passengers.

It was gathered that the bus, carrying Lagos-bound traders from Osogbo, ran into the truck after the driver slept behind the wheel.

The driver and the two passengers at the front seat died instantly. A source told our correspondent that the high casualty rate was because the bus was travelling at high speed when it rammed into the truck.

Rescue operation by sympathisers commenced immediately after the crash but the lack of metal cutters impeded the rescue of mangled and trapped passengers.

Injured victims were rushed to the State Hospital, Ikire, while the corpses of the deceased were deposited at the hospital's mortuary.

Policemen and officials of the Federal Road Safety Commission led the rescue operation at the scene.

The Ilesha-Ibadan Expressway is replete with potholes and bad portions, which have collectively made driving hazardous.

Over 20 persons perished at the Gbongan end of the road on December 15, 2007 when a trailer, in a bid to evade a failed portion on the road, abandoned its track and drove against traffic.

An unsuspecting commercial bus rammed into the trailer, killing over 10 persons in the crash.

The following morning, another accident occurred at the same spot when vehicles rammed into the trailer and the bus, which were not taken off the road since the previous day.

Efforts to get an official confirmation from the FRSC did not yield result as phone calls to top officials did not connect.

An official of the FRSC, who declined to be named, explained that ten

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An official of the FRSC, who declined to be named, explained that top officials of the FRSC had moved to the site of the crash when our correspondent visited the FRSC sector headquarters in Osogbo.

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