

news

Eight killed in Anambra road crashes

Emmanuel Obe, Awka

EIGHT persons were killed and 17 others critically injured in two road accidents that occurred near the Abba Junction on the Enugu – Onitsha Expressway on Monday.

The first accident involved an inter-state commuter Hiace bus belonging to G.U. Okeke and Sons and a Sport Utility Vehicle, which had a head-on collision.

The second accident involved a commuter Hummer bus belonging to the Rivers Transport Company and a Mercedes Benz 200 car around the same area.

While seven persons (three female, three male and a male child) died in the first accident, one person was killed in the second.

The 15 people and the two people injured in the first and second accidents respectively were taken to the Regina Caeli Hospital, Awka for treatment, while the dead were taken to the Amaku General Hospital mortuary.

Anambra State Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps, Mr. Hyginus Omeje, said the accidents were caused by over-speeding and route diversion violation.

According to him, the accidents occurred at a spot along the expressway where traffic was diverted from the Enugu-bound lane to the Onitsha-bound lane for repair work on the erosion site.

Omeje said the bus in the first accident had passed the point where traffic had been redirected back to the Enugu-bound road and was going at a top speed when it rammed the oncoming jeep.

He appealed to motorists operating on a one-way lane to be extra-cautious and avoid over-speeding at such points.

He said he had directed that an FRSC patrol van and an ambulance should be placed near the diversion point for prompt reaction.

Omeje appealed to CCC Nigeria Limited, the company handling the reconstruction of the road to place a conspicuous diversion notice at the points of diversions to alert motorists.

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