

# 18 die in Ebonyi, Cross River auto crashes

Armstrong Bakam, Edward Nnachi with agency report

**T**HE Ebonyi State Sector Command of the Federal Road Safety Corps has confirmed the death of 12 passengers in a road accident on Tuesday.

According to the *News Agency of Nigeria*, the Sector Commander, Uche Chukwurah, told journalists in Abakaliki, the state capital, that the accident occurred at the Ezillo end of the Enugu-Abakaliki-Ogoja Highway.

Chukwurah said the accident involved a white Ford shuttle bus and a pink articulated vehicle.

She said, "The registration number of the shuttle bus is EBJ 350 XA while the articulated vehicle has no registration number."

"Fourteen persons were involved in the accident with 12

dead and two seriously injured.

"The dead persons consist of 10 males and two females, and the accident occurred around 10am."

The sector commander added that the injured passengers were evacuated to the Alex-Ekwueme Federal Teaching Hospital in Abakaliki for treatment.

"The FRSC commiserates with the families of the dead and prays for the repose of their souls."

"We urge motorists to realise that life has no duplicate and drive to stay alive," she said.

An eyewitness who spoke to NAN on the condition of anonymity said the vehicles collided while at high speed.

Meanwhile, six persons also died in an accident on Tuesday involving a truck and Sienna vehicle along Calabar-Ogoja Highway in Cross River State.

The sector commander of the



• Scene of the Cross River crash

FRSC in the state, Mr Abdullahi Hassan, told NAN in Calabar, the state capital, that one person was also injured in the accident.

He said, "We have eight male adults and one female adult in the vehicles. One male adult was injured, while six persons, five males and one male, died."

"The registration number of the Sienna vehicle is AFM 810 NK, while the truck has no number. The probable cause of

the crash is wrongful overtaking and speeding.

"Both the injured and those who died have been taken to the General Hospital in Ogoja by officers of the FRSC."

Hassan advised motorists to desist from wrongful overtaking and speeding on highways.

Also, 14 people narrowly escaped death in a crash that involved three vehicles at Tashan Saleh along Bauchi-

Toro-Jos Road in the Toro Local Government Area of Bauchi State on Tuesday.

The sector commander of the FRSC in the state, Yusuf Abdullahi, confirmed this to our correspondent.

He said the crash occurred around 2.40pm and it involved two commercial vehicles and a private vehicle.

According to him, the vehicles are Opel Vectra Saloon with number plate AA421KRF, a Blue DAF trailer with number plate GME 715XX and a red Mercedes Benz 190 with no registration number.

He said there were 15 male adults involved in the crash with only one of them escaping with no injury.

"The remaining 14 male adults sustained bruises, deep cuts and fractures in the crash that was probably caused by dangerous overtaking," he said.