

2 women dead, 4 injured as truck crushes shuttle bus in Anambra

Okey Maduforo

AWKA

Tragedy struck yesterday in Awka, Anambra State capital, when a heavy duty truck, with registration number XQ 679 EPE, allegedly had brake and crushed a stationary shuttle bus, killing two women and injuring four others at the Kwata junction flyover.

An eyewitness, Mr. Joseph Okafor, who claimed he was washing his car at the Kwata junction when the accident occurred, said: "We were here washing our cars when the truck was moving at a high speed and the conductor was shouting the 'brake has failed' and the shuttle was discharging passengers near the traffic light.

"A police man was trying to stop the truck from beating the traffic light but the truck could not stop and all that we saw was the truck climbing on top of the shuttle and crushed it.

"The shuttle driver survived along with a woman carrying her baby and three others. But one woman was trapped in between the truck and the shuttle and she was rescued by the police and Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) personnel but the other woman in front of her had her head buried inside the crushed engine of the shuttle.

"The woman that was disembarking from the shuttle was crushed by the truck beyond recognition and her mangled remains were packed into a 'Ghana Must Go bag'.

Speaking with journalists at the

scene of the accident, the Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Mr. Andrew Kumapayi, said two women died on the spot while the four persons that survived are responding to treatment at the hospital.

He said the cause of the accident was overspeeding by the truck driver who wanted to beat the traffic light and rammed into the shuttle bus in the process.

Also, the state Commissioners for Transport, Dr. Christian Madubuko, told journalists that the essence of the traffic light was to control overspeeding by motorists.

He added that the accident would not have occurred if the truck driver obeyed the traffic light.

However, it is not clear as at the time of this report, the whereabouts of the truck driver while one of the survivors was seen breast feeding her less than one year old baby while being transported to the hospital.

We need to stop op

Emmanuel Masha

PORT HARCOURT

The Managing Director of the Niger Delta Basin Development Authority (NDBDA), Mr. Tonye David-West, has stressed the need to end open defecations in the ongoing campaign to check the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid-19).

David-West, who spoke with journalists yesterday in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, on the virus,