

Truck crushes four, injures several others

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LAGOS—Four persons were crushed to death by a truck yesterday morning along the Oshodi Apapa, expressway, while several others, among whom were three beggars, were seriously injured.

Report said the truck with registration number XP 88 KK on which was an empty container was heading towards Apapa end of the expressway when it suddenly failed break on reaching Cele bus-stop. In a bid to control the vehicle, it skidded off the expressway and ran over eight commuters standing on the service lane to board buses to their respective destinations.

Two of the victims; a man and a woman whose identities were yet to be ascertained, died on the spot. Two others reportedly died on the way to the hospital.

However, the fate of three other victims, one of them a beggar are still hanging on the balance as doctors in an undisclosed hospital on Okota road were said to be battling to save their lives as at time of writing this report. Several other commuters most of whom were workers, sustained varying degrees of injury while running from the failed truck.

Sensing the magnitude of the incident, driver of the truck took to his heels abandoning the vehicle which skidded back to the highway but was saved from causing more havoc, as it climbed the culvert which brought it to an abrupt halt.

Motor park touts otherwise called *agbero* effected a lot of damages on the truck and prevented two plain cloth policemen from moving it from the spot.

When *Vanguard* visited the scene at about 8am, the lifeless bodies of the commuters, two of whom were said to have been waiting for their staff bus were seen in different positions at Cele. It was not until thirty minutes later that policemen from Ilasamaja division came carried the corpses to the mortuary and towed the truck to their office, thereby allowing the free flow of traffic.