

19 die in Calabar-Uyo road auto crash

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BY EMMA UNA

CALABAR — NINETEEN people including the drivers of a commercial bus and a truck were among those killed in an auto crash along Calabar-Uyo highway, Wednesday evening, when an Onitsha bound bus collided with two trucks.

According to an eye witness, Peace Monday, the accident occurred when a Cross Link bus conveying 18 passengers

to Onitsha from Calabar was descending the Obot Isong slope and close to the bridge a truck carrying rock chippings also from Calabar came right behind it on top speed with apparently failed brakes.

"The truck was on high speed and overtook the bus on the bridge and since the bridge is narrow, the commercial bus was forced to face oncoming vehicles and inci-

dentally, a truck was coming from the Akwa Ibom end of the road.

"The driver of the oncoming truck with number plate Akwa Ibom NGD 01 XA, also on high speed, could no longer control his truck which eventually ran over the bus, killing all the 17 passengers except one who sustained severe injuries.

"The truck that overtook the bus tore through the bridge

railings and plunged under the bridge.

"The driver and his motor boy also died but two others who were at the back of the truck sustained serious injuries as they were flung into the bush."

Federal Road Safety Commission officials from Uyo were said to have taken corpses of the dead to the mortuary while those who were injured were taken to the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital, UCTH.