

NRC confirms five fatalities in Warri-Itakpe train accident as NSIB retrieves evidence

The Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) has confirmed that five passengers lost their lives in the recent Warri-Itakpe Train Service (WTTS) accident near Agbor, Delta State, while approximately 40 others sustained varying degrees of injuries.

The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation, Dr. Kayode Opeifa, disclosed this while providing an update on the incident, describing the accident as a tragic development that has deeply saddened the railway family and the nation.

According to him, the casualty figure remains five, while several injured passengers are currently receiving medical attention in various hospitals. He noted that some victims have already been treated and discharged, while others

with more serious injuries continue to receive specialised care.

Dr. Opeifa explained that a total of 482 persons were on board the train at the time of the accident, comprising 442 passengers and 40 crew members, security personnel and other service providers attached to the train operation.

He stated that all passengers and personnel on board have been accounted for, adding that the Corporation immediately activated its emergency response procedures and commenced contact-tracing efforts using passenger manifests and ticketing records to reach affected passengers and their families.

The NRC boss assured Nigerians that the Corporation is working closely with relevant authorities to determine the cause of the accident

and prevent future occurrences.

He disclosed that safety investigators from the National Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB), alongside NRC technical and safety teams, are conducting a detailed investigation into the incident.

While urging members of the public to avoid speculation, Dr. Opeifa said the Corporation would be guided by the findings of the investigation in implementing any additional corrective measures required to further strengthen railway safety.

He reaffirmed the Corporation's commitment to maintaining the highest safety standards across its operations and disclosed that additional reviews of operational procedures, infrastructure and maintenance systems are being

considered as part of efforts to continuously improve service delivery.

The Managing Director also clarified reports circulating in some sections of the media regarding the identities of certain individuals allegedly involved in the accident.

According to him, Sen. Ede Dafinone, representing Delta Central Senatorial District, and former Secretary to the Delta State Government, Mr. Patrick Ukah, were not passengers on board the train.

He explained that both men were among prominent stakeholders who assisted in coordinating rescue and emergency response efforts following the incident and commended their contributions during the critical period.

