

6 dead, 14 injured in Ebonyi road crash

19th October 2025



From **Uchenna Inya**, Abakaliki

Six persons have been confirmed dead and 14 injured in a ghastly motor accident that occurred at the weekend on the Nkalagu axis of Abakaliki/Enugu expressway.

The incident occurred close to Nkalagu overhead bridge on the expressway.

The state Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Henry Igwe, who confirmed the incident, said 22 persons were involved in the auto crash.

Igwe said the accident which occurred as a result of dangerous overtaking, involved a commercial Toyota bus and a truck.

He disclosed that some of the injured victims were taken to Annunciation and Orthopedic Hospitals, Enugu, by the Road Safety corps and Red Cross while others were taken to General Hospital, Ezzamgbo, Ebonyi State, for medical attention.

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A resident of Nkalagu described Nkalagu/Enugu expressway as the most dangerous road to ply.

He said the road is very dangerous because of the one-way nature and the hard concrete central demarcation, which doesn't permit vehicles to dodge reckless drivers in the only free one-way road.

“Recall that in the year 2019, former Gov. David Umahi started the dualisation of the Enugu-Abakaliki Expressway from the Nkalagu boundary with the construction of a flyover at Nkalagu junction.

“Six years later, the single carriage 1 km from the Enugu-Nkalagu boundary to Nkalagu junction, where the construction started, is yet to be completed and is blocked from being used and badly positioned, with the central demarcation giving no room to dodge dangerous driving from heavy-duty vehicles. Even in such auto crash, the vehicle will be left to hit the concrete demarcation which always makes it more severe.

“Hardly will you come across months without accidents on that road. Those living on the other side of Nkalagu hardly find access to their houses due to the blockade. My guests and I were even affected in the last festive period.

“What of those our brothers that have lost their lives on that ugly road and the one that happened today that could have been avoided?” he said.