

● *Victims lie unidentified in Oghara mortuary as death toll remains unknown*

MORE than 24 hours after an explosion consumed an 18-seater commercial bus along the Ugbenu-Ologbo Bridge road in Ethiopie West Local Government Area of Delta State, not a single family member has come forward to identify any of the eight victims lying at Divprotesty Mortuary in Oghara, raising fears that the families' of the deceased may

The accident occurred about 10:30p.m., on May 25, 2026, when an articulated truck, belonging to a cement company coming from the Warri/Sapele Expressway direction lost control, overturned and crashed its head into the commercial bus, which was travelling from Lagos.

Sources told *Vanguard* the truck was powered by Compressed Natural Gas, CNG, believed to have dramatically intensified the explosion and spread of fire.

Every passenger in the bus perished. The scale of destruction was total. Officials involved in the recovery operation confirmed to Vanguard that while eight bodies were successfully recovered from the wreckage as whole corpses and deposited at Divprotesty Mortuary, the remains of the other victims were burnt beyond any limit of recognition that only

Heavy-duty equipment was deployed to separate the crushed bus from the trailer before further recovery of remains could continue.

The precise number of passengers aboard the bus at press time remains unconfirmed. The death toll is also unknown.

When *Vanguard* visited the scene, the charred skeleton of the bus and the mangled truck were still visible, with gory body parts burnt beyond recognition scattered across the crash site.

A motorcycle rider, who arrived shortly after the explosion told *Vanguard*: "Few minutes after it happened, we saw the fire light glowing into the sky. When I got there, I could still hear voices of people crying in agony inside the bus."

Supervisory Councillor, Wisdom Gabriel, of Ethiope West Local Government Area, Delta State, who confirmed key details of the incident to *Vanguard*, noted that the accident occurred Monday night but information only became widely circulated the following morning, a delay that may explain why no family has yet responded to the mortuary.

There are unconfirmed reports that one person survived the accident and was rushed to a hospital in Benin City for treatment. The survivor's condition and identity remained unknown at press time.

Chairman of Ethiopie West, Pastor Chris Onogba, who arranged for the eight recovered bodies to be deposited at Divprotesty Mortuary, has issued an urgent appeal to the public.

"Should any of their relatives travelled from Lagos to Delta State on Monday night and have not gotten to their destination, they should go to Oghara Police Station. So, they could check with Diviprotesty Mortuary where eight of the corpses have been deposited," he said.

At press time, not one of the eight bodies had been identified. No family has reported to the mortuary or the police station.

Meanwhile, members of the public with information about passengers, who may have been on a Lagos-to-Delta commercial bus on the night of May 25, 2026, were urged to report immediately to Oghara Police Station, Ethiope West.

THE Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) has warned Nigerians against relying on bitter kola, salt water, herbs, seasoning cubes and other unverified substances as remedies for Ebola virus disease (EVD).

In a public health advisory obtained by *TheCable*, the agency cautioned that the spread of false claims and homemade remedies could worsen panic and undermine public health response efforts amid renewed concerns over Ebola outbreaks in parts of sub-Saharan Africa.

The advisory, titled 'Ebola Virus Disease (EVD): Myths vs Facts', was issued to counter growing misinformation circulating online following recent cases recorded in countries

including the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda.

Although Nigeria has not recorded any confirmed Ebola case, the agency said the country remains on alert because of increased cross-border movement and international travel linked to affected regions.

Responding to claims on social media suggesting that substances such as salt water, bitter kola, herbs and seasoning cubes can prevent or cure Ebola, the NCDC noted that such remedies have no scientific basis.

"There is currently no approved home remedy for Ebola virus disease. Early reporting, supportive medical care, and strict infection prevention and control measures are critical. Avoid self-medication and seek care promptly if symptoms develop," the agency said.

The NCDC also warned Nigerians against spreading unverified health claims, noting that misinformation could trigger confusion and weaken public trust during disease outbreaks.

"Sharing unverified information can create panic and confusion. Members of the public are advised to rely only on updates from official public health authorities and credible sources," the advisory added.

The agency urged Nigerians to remain calm but vigilant, insisting that preventive awareness and responsible public behaviour remain essential despite the absence of any confirmed Ebola case in the country.

"Although no case has been confirmed in Nigeria, outbreaks in the region require vigilance, preparedness, and responsible public health behaviour to reduce the risk of importation and transmission," the agency said.

The warning comes days after the NCDC raised concerns over the possibility of Ebola importation into Nigeria due to the continuing outbreak in parts of Central and East Africa.

Jide Idris, director-general of the NCDC, said the agency's latest assessment showed that Nigeria faces a high risk of exposure because of population movement and the difficulty of detecting Ebola symptoms in the early stages.

"This assessment estimated the risk of Ebola importation into Nigeria as high due to the ongoing transmission in the DRC and Uganda, international travel and population movement, uncertainty regarding the full magnitude of the outbreak, and the potential for delayed recognition because symptoms may overlap with endemic diseases such as malaria and Lassa fever," Idris said.

investigation was launched after a petition dated April 12, 2026, was submitted to the AIG concerning the activities of a criminal syndicate allegedly specialising in motorcycle theft within the Sagamu and Ijebu Ode areas of Ogun State.

Police said intelligence reports revealed that the gang routinely stole motorcycles and transported them to buyers in Ogere, Ojodu Berger, Mushin and other parts of the country.