

17 killed in auto crash

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TRAGEDY struck weekend during the Christmas celebration as 17 passengers died in two separate ghastly motor accidents in Delta and Imo states respectively.

Of fourteen of those involved in the carnage were mangled to death along the Owerri -Aba expressway late Friday night while three others met their death on the ever-busy Onitsha —Benin dual carriageway Sunday afternoon.

The incident which involved an Abia State bound luxurious bus and a Mitsubishi 14 seater bus with registration number IMO XA294UMD travelling from Aba to Owerri, occurred around 10 pm at the Ulakwo village in Owerri North council

area several poles after the Sam Mbakwe airport in the state.

Daily Champion learnt that all the passengers in the mini-bus died. An eyewitness said "there was a loud bang as the two collided but there was no rescue. Some vehicles of the victims said to have wailed profusely but there was no helps," the source lamented.

Daily Champion gathered that the luxurious bus with plate number Enugu XK 238 ENU belonging to a popular transport company was on top speed when it tried to avoid a pothole located at the center of road where the carnage occurred. The driver was said to have lost control, which forced the bus over loaded with passengers to ram into the on-coming Mitsubishi bus.

As the two collided amid top speed, the luxurious bus

had dragged the small bus to a distance of about fifteen feet into the bush while under it, grinding all the occupants to rubble.

Worse as the situation was, all the passengers in the luxurious bus had quickly taken off as the night was fast approaching, to board any available vehicle at their disposal.

The corpses of all those dead trapped were at the scene as at 9:48 am Saturday morning when motorists who plied the route but suddenly met the ugly sight raised alarm that attracted sympathizers that later alerted officials of the state Federal Road Safety Commission, FRSC, and the police.

The mangled bodies of the victims were later separated by the joint team of FRSC and police officials in the state.