

Rivers: 3 die as *okada* rams into truck

CHINEDU WOSU, PH

NO fewer than three persons were confirmed dead when a trailer collided with a motorcycle operator along East West road in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

The fatal accident happened on Thursday night between 7.30 and 8.00 pm as the motorbike was overtaking the heavy truck and later skipped off the main road, claiming the lives of the three occupants of the motorcycle. The accident attracted passersby and villagers close to the scene of the incident as blood spilled

over the road, causing heavy traffic for motorists plying the busy route.

The accident caused stampede on the road as vehicles heading to Bayelsa and Delta States were held up due to traffic jam experienced shortly after the accident.

The accident, eyewitness said, was caused by recklessness and over speeding on the part of the *okada* rider as he was overtaking the truck before the incident occurred. The remains of the victims have been deposited at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital mortuary, even as they were crushed beyond

recognition by the trailer.

Contacted, Police Public Relations Officer of the Rivers State Police command, Mrs. Ireju Barasua, DSP, while confirming the accident, blamed it on recklessness and over speeding by the drivers.

She also described the fatal accident as unfortunate and called on the drivers to desist from over speeding on highways to avoid waste of human lives. The police image maker appealed to *okada* riders in the state to be cautious and adhere strictly to road signs so as to avoid unnecessary accidents on the road.