

Easter tragedy: Crane crushes 9

Our Reporter

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It was a gory sight Easter Sunday at Okigwe Imo State, when a crane en-route to Port Harcourt lost control and crushed over seven persons to death including two masquerades, and left dozens of others critically injured.

The tragic incident took place around 7pm as the heavy duty equipment with registration AG 622 PHC apparently lost control while descending a slope. It crushed objects on its way before finally burying a Toyota Corolla car alive with its occupants.

The accident also claimed the life of the Deputy Bursar of Abia State University (ABSU), Mr. Anthony Ajonu who was said to have gone to buy some drugs for his sick wife.

However, It was a double tragedy for a family from Ihube, a nearby community as a youngman said to have just deposited the corpse of his father at the Okigwe General Hospital morgue was also killed by the crane.

When our correspondent visited St. Anthony's Hospital Okigwe where most of the victims were deposited, a hospital source said about three people had been confirmed dead while scores of others whose conditions were critical had been referred to the Federal Medical Centre (FMC) Umuahia.

When contacted, the Area Commander in charge of Okigwe Police Command, Mr. Paul Aliu confirmed the incident but said the actual figure of casualties was yet uncertain as his men were still battling to pull the vehicle under the crane, as at the time of filling this report.

Unconfirmed reports said two of the victims of the unfortunate incident were masquerades celebrating the Easter festivity.

Residents are still confused about the mission of the heavy duty equipment in the town despite the ban on such vehicles within the metropolis by the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC).