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Nigeria: 4 Die in Port Harcourt Road Accident

Daily Trust (Abuja)

4 August 2008

Posted to the web 4 August 2008

Henry Omunu Port Harcourt

Four persons were confirmed dead yesterday in Port-Harcourt, when a bus

veered off the road and crashed into pedestrians and hawkers along the Rumuokoro-Iguruta axis of the Rivers State capital.

Apart from the dead, many others sustained injuries and were taken to hospitals for treatment by sympathisers while the corpses of the unfortunate victims have been deposited at the morgue.

Eyewitnesses said the bus belonging to the Salvation Ministry, a Pentecostal Church in Port Harcourt was conveying worshippers back home after Sunday service when the incident occurred.

The accident, which happened at 3.30pm, the eyewitnesses told our correspondent, was caused by the recklessness of the bus driver, who tried to negotiate a round-about while on top speed.

The driver's inability to complete the manoeuvre, an eyewitness who preferred anonymity said, forced him to veer off the road, crashing into

unsuspecting hawkers and pedestrians.

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"The bus was coming from the Rumuokoro axis and attempted to negotiate the roundabout at Iguruta, and head towards the Omagwa Airport Road but lost control and crashed into hawkers and other people

walking along the road. Four of the people affected died on the spot, while many others were injured. None of the people in the bus died but they had minor injuries", the eyewitness said. According to him, the vehicle must have developed a mechanical fault because the driver could not slow down when he realized he was approaching the round-about on top speed; a realization which forced him to swerve to the right, crashing into anything on its path instead of crashing headlong into the concrete slab of the round-about.

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