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Sallah day tragedy: 7 perish in auto crash

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WRITTEN BY SHEHU ABUBAKAR, WHO WAS IN DELTA

Seven persons were killed and six others critically injured in a fatal motor accident that occurred Sunday in Delta State, amidst a serious down pour. The accident, involving a bus and a truck, occurred around 10 am when both vehicles were travelling towards Port-Harcourt around the Isoko villages of Delta State near Patani close to the boundary between Delta and Bayelsa states.

 \mathbf{A} n eyewitness, Silas Erukakpomrhe, a palm wine tapper, said the commercial bus carrying about 18 passengers that included all the dead and injured persons, ran into the truck that was driving ahead of it when the truck was trying to avoid some potholes at the terribly bad but busy Warri to Port-Harcourt road.

All the doors of the Hiace bus the passengers were travelling were damaged and failed to open while the roof of the bus opened as a result of pressure.

The dead and injured passengers were seen being removed through the roof of the bus by volunteers made up of farmers and villagers from the surrounding villages.

A male youth corps member who survived with a fracture on his right leg could neither identify himself no utter a word. However, a female passenger that escaped with minor injuries identified herself as Miss Funmi Alabi. She said she was travelling from Akure to Port-Harcourt but joined the vehicle in Warri. She denied knowing any of the passengers in the bus.

The driver of the truck and his two passengers were said to have escaped from the scene of the accident leaving the truck behind for fear of being attacked by surviving victims and sympathizers. There was no damage seen on the truck. Efforts to reach the Delta State police command and the federal road safety commission in the state were not successful. However, police men at a local police station in Patani near the scene of the accident said it was not long when the matter was reported to them and they had sent a rescue team to the scene.







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