

# 25 feared dead in Enugu road accident

From Lawrence Njoku, Enugu

**T**RAGEDY struck at Ugwu Onyema, the outskirts of Enugu, the Enugu State capital on Wednesday night when about 25 persons including a family of seven died in a multiple accident that occurred in the area. Several other people were also injured.

The sad event which occurred at about 7.30 p.m. saw several sympathisers thronging the Enugu-Onitsha highway yesterday to catch a glimpse of the scene of the accident.

The *Guardian* gathered yesterday that the accident occurred when the driver of a long truck towing another truck that

broke down on the Onyeama hill lost control while descending the hill.

In the process, the vehicle ran into six other vehicles that were also ascending the hill from Enugu, including two commuter buses, two trailers and a Mitsubishi car with registration number Enugu BD 371-UWN belonging to the perished family of seven. They were said to be traveling to Awka in Anambra State.

It was learnt that some of the injured persons were rushed to the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital (UNTH), Enugu and Enugu State University Teaching Hospital for treatment, while the dead ones had

been deposited at the hospital mortuary.

When *The Guardian* visited the scene of the accident yesterday, it was discovered that while the Mitsubishi car belonging to the family of seven was damaged beyond repairs, the two commuter buses had plunged into the valley, while one of the trailers was on the other side of the valley.

Household and food items littered the entire place, while anxious residents were busy searching for identity of the victims.

It was also observed that men of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) were busy using cranes to

pull out people trapped in the wreckage. The FRSC Sector Commander in Enugu Hygenius Fomsuk, who confirmed the incident, however, said the figures might not be as high as being speculated, stressing that his men were still on rescue operations to determine the number of people affected.

According to him, only five dead bodies had so far been recovered from the scene, but it may not mean the final number of casualties.

The FRSC boss said his men would visit hospitals to ascertain the actual figure of casualties and would make their findings known later.