

Trailer buries scores, injures many in Imo



The scene of the accident...yesterday

Stories from
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ANOTHER tragedy occurred yesterday at the Imo Environmental Transformation Commission (ENTRACO), near Imo University junction, along Okigwe Road, Owerri, Imo State, about noon, when a long Mac trailer with Registration Number Anambra X882HAL, crashed into the fence and office block of the commission and buried some yet-to-be identified number of persons and injured others. According to a source who spoke with *The Guardian*, after the ugly incident occurred, the big truck loaded with materials suspected to be bags of cement, was rolling down from the Okigwe end of a

valley, probably with the brake fail, prompting it to hit and break the fence and the office block of the commission. *The Guardian* spotted the charred and dismembered body of one of the victims under the truck. Others were under as their body parts around the vicinity. As at press time, the exact number of persons affected were yet to be known, but an eyewitness disclosed that some people who were standing on the road, probably waiting for vehicle, might have been affected. It would be recalled that last year, a big trailer veered off the Imo University Junction Roundabout into a popular one-storey building / shopping plaza, dragging a young man

who had just returned from Europe to establish a gigantic poultry farm in that area, to death. He was beheaded by the vehicle, while some persons in a restaurant where the vehicle rested were injured. It took some time to pull the buried bodies. He said: 'This is tragic. This trailer just ran into this place. Some persons were affected. The big Mac trailer also crashed, breaking the fence, office rooms and some property parked in the premises. The magnitude of loss is colossal. We cannot count now. As at 1.00p.m, the whereabouts of the driver and his conductor was yet to be ascertained. This is regular occurrence. There was a time one failed at the Imo Univer-

sity junction, injuring scores, while about two months ago, another one took a toll here and maimed some people. Government of Imo State should do something about this.' The incident disrupted vehicular and human movements as many wailed at the scene. The State governor, Chief Rochas Okorocha, had last year ordered all big trucks to divert through the outskirts of Owerri capital city, placing a fine ranging from N100,000 against any violator, but neither any government official nor the commercial vehicle operators has adhered to the instruction. *The Guardian* gathered that several persons had lost their lives in the area.

Magistrate decries non-deployment of police in court