

8 killed, others injured in Anambra, Taraba auto crashes

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1 SEVEN people have been confirmed dead after a driver of an 18-seater bus lost control of the vehicle in Bali Local Council of Taraba State. The accident, which occurred at the weekend in Gazabu village of Bali Council, left other passengers injured.

The bus left Kurmi Local Council, where the passengers had gone to attend the funeral of a deceased traditional ruler for Jalingo metropolis.

It was said to have somer-

saulted several times after one of the tyres burst.

An eyewitness, who spoke with *The Guardian*, said the driver lost control immediately one of the bus tyres burst and veered off the road into a nearby bush after somersaulting several times.

According to the witness, the timely intervention of the rescue team from Bali Council reduced the number of casualties.

Confirming the accident, the Chairman, Bali Local Council, Musa Mahmoud, said he immediately mobilised a rescue team to the scene on receiving a distress

call.

He said two of the victims died on the spot, while five others died on arriving at the council's General hospital.

The chairman sympathised with the families of the victims.

Meanwhile, the remains of the victims have been evacuated to the mortuary of the Federal Medical Center (FMC) in Jalingo, the state capital.

Family members of some wounded victims, who spoke with *The Guardian*, urged the state government to wade in to

save those with critical injuries.

Also, the Anambra State Sector Command of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), yesterday confirmed the death of a bus driver in an accident at Okeohia by Ihiala, along Onitsha-Owerri Expressway in Anambra State.

Apart from the driver, four others were injured in the accident.

An eyewitness said the accident involved a commercial bus and an articulated vehicle.

According to the witness, the bus driver conveying il-

legal crude oil was on top speed when he suddenly rammed into a stationary trailer.

He stressed that when the driver of the trailer noticed what had happened, he immediately entered his vehicle and drove off, before witnesses could capture the vehicle details.

Confirming the incident, the Sector Commander, Adeoye Irelewuyi, attributed the crash to over speeding.

Irelewuyi in a statement, said: "A fatal road traffic crash happened at Okeohia by Ihiala, along Onitsha-Owerri Expressway on Novem-

ber 7 about 15:06hrs. "The crash was between two vehicles, a commercial bus with registration No: NKK-314-VT and an articulated vehicle with no registration number.

"The probable cause of the fatal crash was attributed to excessive speed, which led to loss of control.

"Five persons were involved in the crash, comprising four males and one female, all adults. The corpse of the driver was taken to Our Lady's mortuary Ihiala, after being confirmed dead by the doctor on duty."

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