

25 killed in Enugu road accident

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A ROAD accident in Enugu has claimed the lives of 25 persons and left a score of others seriously injured.

The mishap occurred along Onyema Hill, along the Enugu-Onitsha expressway, at about 9.30.p.m on Wednesday night.

Eyewitnesses told our correspondent at the scene of the accident, that a driver of a trailer towing another trailer lost control while descending the hill, and crashed into about eight other vehicles.

The heavy-duty trailer with registration number Lagos XR909LSR, was moving towards Enugu when it crashed into the other vehicles that were ascending the hill from the op-

posite direction in the one-way lane currently being used by motorists as a result of e ongoing rehabilitation work.

The scene looked gory with the burnt vehicles slashed with blood, just as personal effects of the passengers littered the roads.

Found in one of the destroyed vehicles, believed to be mini commercial Toyota bus, were human bones, foodstuff, children's clothes, among other items.

Our correspondent observed that some of the vehicles that were seriously hit in the accident included two mini commercial buses, a red Mitsubishi Lancer salon car, marked Enugu BD371 UNN, which was conveying a family of seven that perished in the mishap.

It was however, learnt that some of the injured victims were rushed to the University of Nige-

ria Teaching Hospital (UNTH), Ituku Ozalla, Enugu, for medical attention, while the dead bodies had been deposited at the hospital mortuary.

Men of the Enugu State command of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) and scores of sympathisers were seen on Thursday morning still carrying out rescue operations at the scene of the accident, where over the years, hundreds of lives had been lost.

Confirming the ncident on telephone, the Enugu State FRSC Sector Commander, Hygienus Fonshuk, said though, there were casualties, but the figure might not be as high as being speculated.

Fuomsuk said that about five dead bodies have been recovered so far, adding however, that his men would visit hospitals to

ascertain the actual casualty figure.

Some sympathisers who spoke to newsmen at the scene of the mishap on condition of anonymity, blamed the Federal Government for the incessant accidents on the said road. According to them, "this accidents are as a result of the bad nature of the road. We have been calling on the minister of works to beam the ministry's search light on the contractor currently handling the rehabilitation work."

They alleged that the contractor had been using sub standard materials for the job.

Meanwhile, many residents of Enugu, the coal city state capital mostly those whom relatives travelled Wednesday, have besieged the ugly scene of the accident with a view to knowing the identities of the victims.