

Family of four, 15 others dead in Anambra road crash

•Police: Only four died

A FIVE month old boy, his parents and a cousin died on Monday in a road accident in Awka, the Anambra State capital.

The scene of the accident is close to the Nnamadi Azikiwe University temporary site.

Also killed were 15 passengers in an Onitsha-bound Mitsubishi bus, including a Mobile Police officer.

But the state Police command yesterday said only four persons died in the accident.

Police spokesman Emeka Chukwuemeka told *The Nation* that the trailer's driver and his conductor survived. They were rushed to a hospital in Awka, where they are receiving treatment.

He said those who are blaming the policeman, who was on duty, were not right as, according to him, the checkpoint had helped in arresting many armed robbers and kidnappers.

Chukwuemeka said many hotels near the scene of the crash and the House of As-

sembly quarters had become a haven for hoodlums.

Chukwuemeka described the incident as "unfortunate".

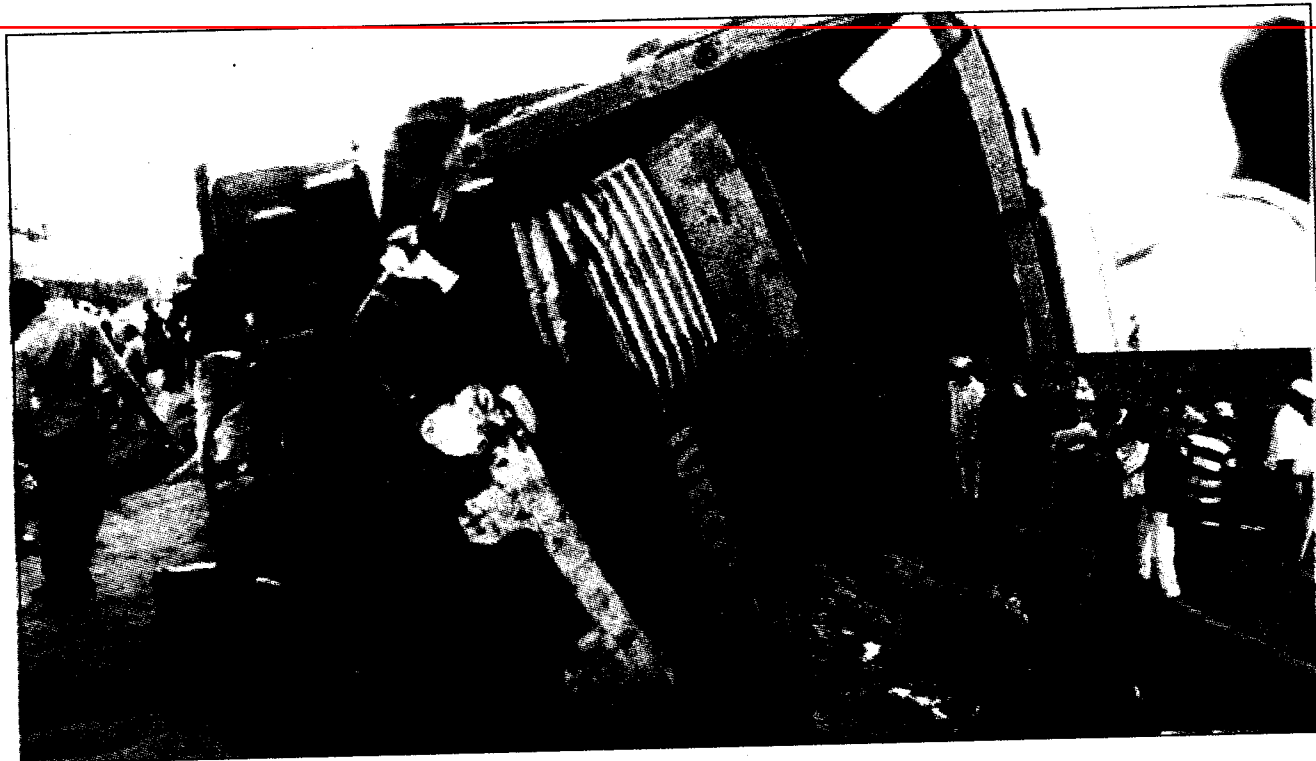
A relation of one of the victims said at the scene that one of the victims hailed from Ngor-okpala in Imo State.

He identified the victim as Steve Ezenwa, who had the dedication of his five-month old boy last Sunday at a church in Awka.

The late Ezenwa, the source said, was taking his child to the hospital with his family in his red Nissan Sunny car when the accident occurred.

The source said the accident happened when the trailer's driver lost control of his vehicle, after the brakes failed near the Unizik junction. The conductor of the trailer raised his head and was shouting that the brakes had failed, said the witness. The trailer rammed into the police check point.

The trailer with registration number Lagos XN754 -LSR crushed an ash-colour Peugeot 504 with registration number ANGH 43, belonging to the Anambra State Government



•The trailer. Inset: Ezenwa's damaged car

House.

The bodies of the dead have been deposited at the Amaku General Hospital, Awka. Both the driver and the conductor of the trailer were taken to

Regina Caeli Hospital, also in Awka.

About two years ago, a trailer lost control at the Quarter Junction in Awka, killing about 36 persons. Over 70 per-

sons were burnt to death at Umunya in Oyi Local Government Area same year, when a tanker conveying fuel fell because of the check point.

Anambra State Deputy Gov-

ernor Emeka Sibuedu has visited the scene of the accident. He commiserated with the families of the deceased and prayed for the repose of their souls.

Edo PDP, AC deny 'cocaine' politician