

Nine students going for JAMB die in Aba auto crash

Nwanosike Onu, Awka Sunny Nwankwo, Aba

•Five others killed in Awka

Nine students on their way to Aba from Port Harcourt for today's Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) yesterday lost their lives in a motor accident.

Twelve other passengers were killed in a separate accident in Awka, Anambra State, yesterday, after a trailer rammed into three other vehicles.

The Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), however confirmed five dead and 17 injured in the accident at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University junction.

The first accident occurred at Obeaku-lhe in Ugwuagbor Local Government Area of Abia State between a Hiace bus with registration number, Rivers XY 249 PHC and a Mack Truck with registration number XC 109 SLK.

Seven died on the spot while two died in hospital.

The Police Public Relations Officer, (PPRO), Geoffrey Ogbonna, who confirmed the incident, said the remains of the dead including the driver of the bus and his conductor had been deposited at the mortuary.

The injured were rushed to the hospital for treatment.

The PPRO said: "the students were coming from Port Harcourt to Aba in a Hiace bus when their driver rammed into the Mack truck packed by the road side of the express.

He said that most of the 15 passengers were believed to be on their way to Aba for the UTME, against the background of items recovered from the scene of the accident.

An eyewitness, who gave his name as Victor Iheakamdu said that the bus driver lost control of his vehicle when he wanted to overtake the vehicle in front of him.

"When he saw an oncoming vehicle after he had engaged in overtaking the car in front of him, he veered off the express and then rammed into the Mack truck that was packed on the road."

The other accident was caused after the brake of the diesel-laden trailer unexpectedly failed, leaving the driver to lose control.

Time was 4pm .

The trailer rammed into three L-300 Mitsubishi buses.

Officials of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), police, army and the Civil Defence Corps (NCSDC) personnel had a hectic time trying to rescue the injured and clear the road for smooth traffic.

The FRSC Sector Commander, Mr. Hygenius Omeje, confirmed the accident and the casualty figures.