

Three die in Anambra accidents

• Truck crushes four-year-old

TWO pastors and another person died in a multiple accident in Ogidi, Idemili North Local Government Area of Anambra State at the weekend.

The accident, which happened about 3pm on the Enugu-Onitsha Expressway, by Tarzan Junction, involved an articulated lorry and six other vehicles.

The truck (AGU 465 YV), carrying scraps, was said to be descending the Afor Nkpor slope when the driver lost control following a brake failure.

"The vehicle suddenly rammed into six vehicles, killing many people on the spot. If some people will come out alive, that will be a miracle," an eyewitness said.

Police spokesman Haruna Mohammed, who confirmed the incident, said three persons died and five others sustained injuries.

He said: "Police patrol team attached to Ogidi division visited the scene and rushed casualties to hospitals for treatment.

"Three victims, including Rev. Miracle Edeh attached to Chaplaincy of the Edo State Police Command; Ikechukwu Victor (30) of Umulere, Ayamelu council and Rev. Pius Ijuo (62) of Igede village, Yala Local Government Area of Cross River State were certified dead.

"Onoh Chika (38) of Akama Ngwo, Enugu State; Ejimkeonye Okolo (38) of Umusiome, Nkpor, Idemili North council; Ifeanyi Chideofor (26) of Ugwuoba Obosi; Samson Nwose (62) of Network Ikpoba Hill, Benin City, Edo State and Ifeanyi Edeh (24) of Akuzor road, Nkpor, are receiving treatment at Iyi Enu Hospital."

Mohammed added that the bodies have been deposited at the

From Emma Elekwa, Onitsha morgue for post-mortem while the truck driver, Odinaka Igwe, was arrested and detained.

A four-year-old, Praise Umeasuobi, was reportedly crushed by an articulated lorry in Ezinifite, Aguata Local Government Area.

The accident, which happened about 4pm on the Isoufia-Igbokwu road, involved a Mercedes Benz 911 truck (XY 546 KSF).

An eyewitness, who identified himself as Victor, said the deceased's father was carrying him on his motorcycle when the truck rammed into them.

"The boy fell while the motorcycle was in motion and he died on the spot," he said.

Police spokesman Haruna Mohammed said the truck was set ablaze by an angry mob before policemen got to the scene. He, however, said the situation was controlled while the truck driver, Sunday Azidiegwa, was rescued and detained.

Three persons also died while five others sustained injuries in another accident in Ezenwa road, off Orifite, Awada, Onitsha.

The accident, which happened about 6:30pm, involved a commercial bus (FGG 817 YN).

Eyewitnesses said the driver was speeding when it knocked down a pedestrian before ramming into a shuttle bus (ATN 927 ZK) and a commercial tricycle (UMZ 327 XA).

Mohammed said the bodies have been deposited in the mortuary and the injured are receiving treatment at various hospitals.