

• Uzodimma commiserates with victims' families

Six persons on Saturday night died at the Imo State University (IMSU), Owerri Junction when a trailer driver lost control and rammed into vehicles and passersby.

It was gathered that the incident happened around 7pm.

An eyewitness, Chidiebube Okeoma, who witnessed the incident, said he helped to rush some of the victims to the Federal Medical Centre in Owerri.

According to him, the driver of the articulated vehicle, who was coming from the town to the Owerri-Okigwe lane of the road drove against traffic and hit the loaded commuter buses and an electric pole nearby, leading to the death of some of the victims.

Some passersby made efforts to save the victims, as they rushed them to nearby hospitals but there were no doctors on duty. The victims were taken to the Federal Medical Centre in Owerri.

While one died on the spot, five others died at the hospital.

Among the victims was a lecturer at IMSU, who was identified as Dr. Nicholas Isinwa from the Department of Marketing, an indigene of the Ohaji Egbema Local Government Area of the state.

The lecturer's brother, Okpor Dominic, said his death was tragic.

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Medical personnel battled to save the lives of others who were in coma. Okeoma said: "We took them to FMC after the nearby hospitals couldn't offer any help. The vehicle smashed them after it lost control at the IMSU junction. Unfortunately six persons have been confirmed dead while others were being attended to."

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The police spokesperson in the state, Henry Okoye, confirmed that six persons died on the spot while others were being attended to at the FMC in Owerri.

Meanwhile, Imo State Governor Hope Uzodinma has expressed sadness over the loss of lives in an accident.

The governor directed a response team, including security agencies, that assisted in taking the injured to hospitals and the fatal ones to the mortuary, including the State Commissioner for Health, to follow up and ensure that adequate medical attention is given to those on admission.

The governor, in a statement by the Commissioner for Information, Public Orientation, and Strategy, Declan Emelumba, also directed an investigation into the accident to identify the culprits who should be made to face the law.