

NYSC call-up: 18 graduates killed in auto crash

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NYSC Director-General, Brigadier - General Nnamdi Okore-Affia

No fewer than 18 fresh graduates of Imo State University (IMSU) were reportedly killed in a motor accident on Thursday. According to agency report, the late students were reported to have collected their National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) orientation camp call-up letters late and in a bid to meet the last day of the camping exercise, had

chartered a small bus for the journey to Jalingo, Taraba State. But speaking with Saturday Mirror, the university authorities promptly denied the deceased being their students. Prof. Martin Onu, the Personal Assistant (PA) to the university's Vice Chancellor, Professor B.E.B. Nwoke, said yesterday in Owerri that the students did not embark on the journey from the university campus.

His words: "We were told that the students embarked on the journey from Onitsha in Anambra State where we learnt that they hired a bus. The students embarked on the journey on their own, the university did not organise such journey."

Prof. Onu said the university authorities had not been notified officially.

"We heard the rumour, we have not been officially informed about the accident nor has anybody come forward to claim that his or her child was among those involved in the accident," he explained.

Efforts by our correspondent to confirm the incident from the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Mr. Sam Oodee, proved abortive as he did not pick his call.