

Commuters plunge into lagoon as *molue* crashes

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AN unspecified number of commuters plunged into the Lagos Lagoon on Thursday when an urban mass transit bus, popularly called *Molue*, collided with a car on the Third Mainland Bridge.

Some of them, including a pregnant woman, however, drowned before local fishermen rushed to the scene.

Many other passengers in the bus sustained varying degrees of injuries.

The fully-loaded bus, with registration number XD 333 APP, was said to have left Iyana-Ipaja at about 9.30am for the Lagos Island when the

accident occurred.

Eyewitnesses said the accident happened when the driver of the *Molue* lost control and hit a green Honda Accord car marked CM 457 JJJ from the rear.

According to them, the bus, in an attempt to avoid running into other vehicles, moved about 200 metres away from the car before it rammed into the protective rail on the side of the bridge.

It was learnt that the impact of the bus on the rail made many of the passengers plunge into the lagoon.

A young man, who had his two legs almost chopped off at the knees, was being rushed to a hospital when our corre-

spondents arrived at the scene.

The driver of the Honda Accord lay by his car. He resisted initial attempts by sympathisers to take him to the hospital.

Some of the commuters who milled round the scene told our correspondents that the accident could have been averted if the bus driver had not been reckless.

The accident left the bus hanging on the rail, as some local fishermen working on the Lagoon rushed to the scene.

They dived into the water and began a search for those who plunged into the lagoon. A few minutes later, they brought out the lifeless body of the expectant

mother.

The Public Relations Officer of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority, Mrs. Adeyinka Gbemibade, said the fishermen brought four dead bodies.

LASTMA's General Manager, Mr. Peter Oyedokun, said the bus and the car had been moved to LASTMA's yard at Olowu on Lagos Island.

But as at 6pm on Thursday, the authorities of the Lagos State Emergency Ambulance Service said that six victims were brought out of the water.

They added that those who sustained injuries were receiving treatment at one of the state's general hospitals.