

Accidents claim three lives in Owerri

Fidelis Soriwei, Owerri

THREE people have been killed and several others injured in accidents involving the commercial motorcycle riders known in local parlance as, *inaiga*, in Owerri and its surrounding villages between 26 and 27 December 2007.

On Wednesday, a commercial motorcycle rider was killed by a truck on the busy Okigwe Road, while the male passenger he was

carrying suffered serious injuries.

The Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Owerri, Mr. Zakari Ndah, told our correspondent on the telephone that the passenger was rushed to the Federal Medical Centre, Owerri, for urgent medication.

Ndah said that the Okada rider, who was drunk, ran into the moving truck and was killed before help could reach him.

Another victim whose name was given by the police as Andy, was said have had a collision with a car at Etokunrun, in Ohaji/Egbema Local Government Area, and sustained serious injuries that led to his death.

His passenger, who survived the accident, died after efforts to save him failed.

A third person whom the Police Public Relations Officer of the Imo State Police Command, Mr. Linus Nwaiwu, described as a

mentally challenged person, was killed while loitering along the road at Ihitte in Ngor/Okpalla Local Government Area of the state.

Speaking to our correspondent on the increasing incidents of accidents and the loss of life, Nwaiwu said that rather than the scourge of robbery and other violent crimes, the Yuletide was being threatened by accidents caused by the recklessness of *inaiga* riders.

Meanwhile, nurses at the FMC have raised the alarm over the increase in accidents involving the *inaiga* riders, as the casualty ward of the facility is replete with cases of accidents involving them.

Our correspondent who was at the FMC to confirmed the strongly reported story of a female passenger of a commercial motorcycle said to have lost her womb, observed incidents of accidents and people shot and were being treated during the period.

The most recent case was a mad man who was shot and brought into the facility by a police patrol team.

Plateau may ban motorcycle operators

