

Five killed in Owerri road crash

Fidelis Soriwei, Owerri

A total of five people died with several others injured on Saturday evening in an auto accident at Orji, along the busy Owerri/Okigwe Road, Imo State.

The accident involved a truck carrying chippings from Ebonyi State, an Audi salon car, a tipper and Peugeot 505 salon car.

Our correspondent gathered from a senior officer of the Nigeria Civil

Defence and Security Corps that four occupants of the Audi lost their lives when the truck loaded with chippings lost control and rammed into it from behind.

It was also learnt that the truck squeezed the Audi

and made it impossible for the trapped passengers to escape, killing four persons of the passengers on the spot.

It was learnt that one of the passengers rushed to the Federal Medical Centre,

Owerri, later died before help could reach him.

According to an eye witness, the accident occurred near a bridge and caused panic among road users, which made the driver of a tipper to run into a Peugeot car.

Several other persons sustained different degrees of injuries in another accident at Naze that involved two Mitsubishi L300 passenger buses along the Owerri Aba/Road and were rushed for medical attention at the FMC, Owerri, by a combined team of the police and men of the Federal Road Safety Commission.

Efforts made to speak with the Sector Commander, FRSC in Imo State, Mr. Angus Ibezim, were not successful as calls placed to his mobile telephone indicated that it was switched off.

However, the Head of Operations, FRSC in the state, Mr. Tukur Fifiawa, who confirmed the development on telephone to our correspondent, stated that he was aware of the deaths of two people so far.

He said that while two of the victims died on the spot, the others affected were in critical condition and had not died before they were rescued from the scene of the accident.

He said that the accident, which occurred at Aba/Owerri Road, was being investigated by the traffic unit of the Nigeria Police Division in Owerri North, which retrieved the two buses from the scene of the accident.



•L-R: Commissioner for Information, Kaduna State, Mr. Saidu Adamu; an unidentified person in suit; Vice-Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission, Alhaji Alhassan Adodogowa; and Regional Programmes Manager, USAID/IFSH, Alhaji Salisu Muhammed, at the fifth Arewa Inspirational Leadership Award and Public Lecture ... in Kaduna. Photo: NAN.

Centre gives recipe to Niger Delta crisis

Chukwudi Akasike, Uyo

A group known as Oil Communities Development Centre, has said that the urgent implementation of the Niger Delta master plan is the solution to the crisis in the region.

The centre explained in a statement signed by its National Chairman, Otuekong Inam Akwa, and made available to our correspondent in Uyo on Saturday, that the master plan

It noted that the people of the Niger Delta region were yearning for the rapid and sustainable development of the area.

The centre called on President Umaru Yar'Adua to dust up the master plan and begin to implement it as he promised during his election campaign last year.

It condemned the kidnapping and other criminal

activities, which had replaced the genuine struggle of the people of the Niger Delta.

The centre appealed to the youths to lay down their arms for the sake of peace and reconciliation, even as it called on the Federal Government to reward those who voluntarily gave up their arms for peace to prevail.

It said, "Such a reward system should also give due

recognition and reward to the most peaceful local government areas and states within the region so as to encourage others to take a cue.

"Akwa Ibom, which is generally acknowledged as the most peaceful state in the Niger Delta region of the country, should not just be adorned with such tag without any corresponding benefit as it is the case today."

Roughly identical measures to curb the crisis in the Niger Delta region.